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DWCNewsline

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Bulletin No. 26-08

April 21, 2008

Division of Workers' Compensation posts updated treating physician forms and regulations to online forum for public comment

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has posted its proposed updated treating physician forms and regulations to an online forum where members of the public may review and comment on the proposal. The proposed regulations will allow all physicians who treat an injured worker, including the primary treating physician and any referral physicians, to submit reports directly to the claims administrator. Further, in order to facilitate the mandatory utilization review process, the updated regulations will require the use of the proposed request for authorization form (DWC Form RFA) for all workers' compensation treatment requests. In addition to the request for authorization form, the proposed forms include a revised treating physician progress report (DWC Form PR-2), a functional improvement report (DWC Form FIR) for providers of physical medicine, and an optional proof of service form (DWC Form PSMR), to verify the date of mailing a medical report.

The proposed updated treating physician regulations are authorized in part by Labor Code section 4603.2, which authorizes the DWC administrative director to adopt regulations requiring periodic medical reports by treating physicians. The proposed changes are in the California Code of Regulations, Title 8, sections 9785, 9785.5, 9785.6, 9785.7, and 9792.6.

An advisory committee provided valuable input to the DWC Medical Unit in the process of developing and designing the proposed forms.

The forum can be found at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/Wcjudicial.htm>. Please click on "current forums" at the top of the page. Comments will be accepted at the forum through May 18, 2007. Please feel free to participate in this important process.

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