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DWCNewsline

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Division of Workers' Compensation posts proposed amended HCO regulations to online forum for public comment

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has posted its proposed amended health care organization (HCO) regulations to an online forum where members of the public may review and comment on the proposal.

The proposed regulations will reduce HCO fees. The application for certification will be reduced from \$20,000 to \$2,500, and the application for an entity licensed under the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act will be reduced from \$10,000 to \$1,000. The recertification fee will be reduced from \$10,000 to \$1,000, and the annual assessment fee will be changed from \$1.00 per enrollee to a flat fee of \$250.00 for 0 to 1,000 enrollees, \$350 for 1,001 to 5,000 enrollees, and \$500 for 5,001 or more enrollees. Amended section 9778 will simplify the reporting requirements. The loan repayment surcharge in section 9779.5(a)(2) will be removed as the repayment period has now ended, and the late payment fee (section 9779) will be repealed.

The proposed changes are in the California Code of Regulations, Title 8, sections 9771, 9778, 9779, 9779.5 and 9779.9.

The forum can be found at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/Wcjudicial.htm>. Please click on "current forums" at the top of the page. For this forum, comments must be sent in by email to DWCForums@dir.ca.gov. At least once daily the forum moderator will compile the comments received and post them in a document to the forum where they can be reviewed. Comments will be accepted at the forum through Dec. 31, 2008. Please feel free to participate in this important process.

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