

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

PUBLIC HEARING

Friday, September 15, 2023
Via Zoom Videoconference

Nicole L. Richardson

Moderator
Staff Counsel
Division of Workers' Compensation

Maureen Gray

Division Regulations Coordinator

Reported by: Antoinette Williams, Hearing Reporter

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Nicole L. Richardson, Staff Counsel

Maureen Gray, Division Regulations Coordinator

Ray Meister, Medical Director

Farai Alves - DWC Assistant Chief Counsel

Sara Widener-Brightwell

Yvonne Hauscarriague

Jennifer Sawran

1 (Opening of Hearing at 11:01 a.m.)

2
3
4 MS. RICHARDSON: Hello, everyone. Welcome to today's
5 public hearing. My name is Nicole Richardson. I am the
6 attorney for the Division of Workers' Compensation. I want to
7 thank everyone. This hearing is being recorded.

8
9 This is our noticed conference call and zoom public
10 hearing. The division is proposing to make updates to the
11 Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule as contained in Title 8
12 California Code of Regulations Section 9792.23.4 and Section
13 9792.24.7.

14
15 I'd like to take a moment to introduce the other DWC
16 staff on the line today. I have Farai Alves, Assistant Chief
17 Counsel of the DWC. We have Dr. Raymond Meister, Medical
18 Director of the DWC. We have Maureen Gray, Division
19 Regulations Coordinator, and our Hearing Reporter is Antoinette
20 Williams. I believe this covers everybody that is here today.

21
22 The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments on
23 the proposed amendment to the regulations, and we welcome any
24 comments you have. Please note, we will not question, respond
25 to or discuss anyone's comments, although we may ask for

1 clarification or ask you to elaborate further on any point that
2 you are presenting. All of your comments, both given verbally
3 here today and those submitted in writing, will be considered
4 in determining what revisions, if any, we make to the proposed
5 regulations.

6
7 If you would like to speak during this hearing, please
8 send a chat to myself, Nicole Richardson, with your full name,
9 the organization you are affiliated with, if any, and contact
10 information.

11
12 If you are calling in for today's meeting, I don't
13 believe we have any callers, but just in case, for the record,
14 if you are calling in for today's meeting and are unable to
15 send a chat, send an e-mail to DWCRules@dir.ca.gov. In the
16 email, please provide your information and we will call you in
17 the order we receive your request. Please include the words
18 "Request to Speak" in the email. Please also include the last
19 four digits of your telephone number so we can identify you.

20
21 Maureen Gray, DWC Regulations Coordinator, is taking
22 attendance. Please send an email to DWCRules@dir.ca.gov or a
23 chat to Maureen Gray with your full name, the organization you
24 are affiliated with, if any, and contact information in case we
25 need to provide you with any updates. We prefer an email

1 address, but if you don't have an email address, your telephone
2 number or mailing address will be fine.

3

4 To help the Court Reporter and to aid in the taking of
5 attendance, we ask that you make sure your screen properly
6 reflects your full first and last name. A screen name will
7 help us identify you for transcript purposes.

8

9 In a zoom application, if you raise your hand, you
10 will not be called upon and your hand will be lowered. Please
11 restrict the subject of your comments to the proposed
12 regulations.

13

14 We ask that you limit your comments to five minutes.
15 You will receive a message asking you to unmute yourself prior
16 to your name being called. You must click on the unmute button
17 in order to speak.

18

19 Please wait to speak until you are called upon. Your
20 time will begin after you are unmuted and you are called upon.
21 I will call the names of those who have indicated that they
22 wish to speak in the order received, and I apologize in advance
23 if I mispronounce anyone's name.

24

25

1 All of our oral comments will be taken down by the
2 Court Reporter. When everyone has had a chance to speak, I
3 will go back and see if anyone wishes to speak. This hearing
4 will continue for as long as people are on the line who wish to
5 comment on the proposed regulations, but it will close at
6 5 o'clock this afternoon.

7
8 If the hearing continues into the lunch hour, we will
9 take at least a one-hour break. If there is time after the
10 succession of speakers, anyone who was cut off at the
11 five-minute mark will receive a chance to make additional
12 comments.

13
14 Written comments can be submitted by fax at the
15 following number: (510) 286-0657 or to the following email
16 address: DWCRules@dir.ca.gov. Written comments received by
17 fax or email will be accepted until midnight tonight.

18
19 For those who do not wish to speak today but want to
20 be notified of any subsequent changes on the Utilization
21 Schedule, please provide your complete name and email address
22 to the same address mentioned previously, DWCRules@dir.ca.gov.
23 Any notice of changes and the final Notice of Amendment to the
24 Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule will be sent to everyone
25 who requests that information.

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

I, ANTOINETTE M. WILLIAMS, the WCAB Hearing Reporter assigned to report the hearing for the Evidenced Based Updates to the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule, heard on September 15, 2023, moderated by Nicole L. Richardson, Staff Counsel for the Division of Workers' Compensation, do hereby certify that the foregoing full transcript constitutes a complete and accurate record of said matter.



ANTOINETTE M. WILLIAMS
Hearing Reporter

Date: September 18, 2023