

# Medical Provider Networks: Selected Topics

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## MPN Statutes and Regulations

- **Labor Code §§4616 – 4616.5**
- **California Code of Regulations, title 8  
§§9767.1 – 9767.19**
- **SB863 passed on August 1, 2012 and was  
signed into law on September 18, 2012.**
- **The amended MPN regulations became  
effective on August 27, 2014.**

## Selected MPN Topics of Discussion

- I. MPN Eligibility;
- II. MPN plan requirements;
  - How must the MPN Plan be submitted to DWC?
  - What must be submitted to DWC?
- III. Compliance with the amended MPN regulations;
- IV. Filing MPN Plans for Reapproval;
- V. Consolidating MPNs;
- VI. MPN Complaints;
- VII. Petitions for Suspension or Revocation of a MPN;
- VIII. Random Reviews.

### I. MPN Eligibility

#### Who qualifies as an MPN Applicant?

- Employer, Insurer, and Entity that Provides Physician Network Services.
- Entity that Provides Physician Network Service is a broadly defined.
- Examples: medical group's, TPA's, managed care entities, employers and insurers.
- Proof of MPN eligibility.

## II. MPN Plan Requirements

How must the MPN Plan be submitted to DWC?

- DWC is no longer accepting paper submissions. Electronic submissions only.
- Compact discs or flash drives in word-searchable PDF format.
- Two copies of the completed, signed Cover Page and the complete MPN Plan.
- Electronic signatures are accepted.

## II. MPN Plan Requirements

What must be submitted to DWC?

- Network physician information;
- Ancillary service provider information;
- Affirm that the MPN network is adequate to handle the expected number of claims and provide an explanation;
- MPN website “for information about the MPN”.
- Website to the roster of treating physicians, secondary physicians designated by “referral only”.

## II. MPN Plan Requirements

What must be submitted to DWC?

- Geocoding – MPN geographic service area needs to be precise.
- Excel file with a worksheet for each of the following geocoding results: 1) zip codes; 2) PTP's within 15 miles; 3) Hospitals or ER within 15 miles; 4) Specialists within 30 miles; 5) zip codes where access standards are not met; 6) alternative access standards or out-of-MPN treatment.

## II. MPN Plan Requirements

What must be submitted to DWC?

- Physician Acknowledgments – MPN Applicant is responsible for obtaining physician acknowledgments.
- MPN Applicant can obtain the physician acknowledgments directly from their physicians or medical groups.
- MPN Applicant can delegate this duty but each physician or medical group must still affirmatively elect to participate in the MPN.

### **III. Compliance with the amended MPN regulations**

**When must an MPN be in compliance with the amended MPN regulations?**

- **Amended MPN regulations became effective on August 27, 2014.**
- **MPNs are responsible for complying with the amended regulations.**
- **Filing a Section 9767.8 MPN Plan Modification.**

### **IV. Filing MPN Plans for Reapproval**

**When must an MPN Plan for Reapproval be filed?**

- **Calculating the start date for the four (4) year approval period.**
- **Complete Plan for Reapprovals shall be filed six (6) months before the expiration of the four (4) year approval period.**
- **DWC will have a 180 days from receipt of a complete Plan for Reapproval to review.**

## V. Consolidating MPNs

How are MPNs consolidated?

- When filing an MPN Plan Modification to change MPN eligibility, ask and answer two very important questions:
  1. Are any changes being made to the MPN Applicant?
  2. Can the MPN policies be consistently applied to all of the MPN's clients?
- If filing an MPN Plan Modification is not feasible, then MPN Applicant should consider filing a new MPN Application as an Entity that Provides Physician Network Services.

## V. Consolidating MPNs

How are MPNs consolidated?

- End coverage with existing MPNs by providing injured covered employees with the appropriate End of Medical Provider Network (MPN) Coverage Notice.
- Provide injured covered employees with the Complete Employee Notification containing information about the new MPN on or before medical care is transferred to the new MPN.
- Employer posting requirements pursuant to CCR, title 8, section 9881(13). MPN information should be updated.

## **VI. MPN Complaints**

**Who can file and what must be done to file an MPN Complaint?**

- **MPN complaint process set forth in section 9767.16 shall be followed.**
- **Written complaint must first be sent directly to the MPN Contact Person.**
- **MPN Applicant shall have thirty (30) calendar days to respond.**
- **If the complaint is not resolved within thirty (30) calendar days then the complainant may file a written complaint with DWC.**

## **VII. Petitions for Suspension or Revocation of a MPN**

**Who can file and what must be done to file a Petition for Suspension or Revocation of a MPN?**

- **Petition process set forth in section 9767.17 shall be followed.**
- **Petitioner must show: 1) MPN Applicant failed to maintain its qualifying status; 2) MPN has systematically failed to meet access standards.**

## VIII. Random Reviews

**Does the Administrative Director plan on doing Random Reviews?**

- **Yes, DWC plans on conducting Random Reviews.**
- **Issue a “Notice of Random Review” to an MPN’s authorized individual specifying the parameters of the review.**
- **DWC will make reasonable requests for information or documentary evidence from the MPN.**
- **MPN Applicant will have thirty (30) calendar days to respond.**