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State of California

DWCNewsline

Division of Workers' Compensation
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Division of Workers' Compensation announces the appointment of Dr. Anne Searcy to the position of medical director

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger today announced the appointment of Dr. Anne Searcy to the position of medical director for the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC).

"Having Dr. Searcy on board as our medical director will help ensure injured workers have access to quality care," said DWC Deputy Administrative Director Carrie Nevans. "And employers can rest assured the division is focused on getting their employees back to work."

The medical director manages all medical and health-related programs in the DWC and will:

- Provide medical expertise and policy guidance to ensure optimum medical services are provided in the workers' compensation system
- Develop education and training for primary treating physicians
- Oversee the qualified medical evaluator, medical provider network, independent medical review and health care organization programs
- Develop, implement and oversee a spinal surgery second opinion program
- Identify research needs and oversee research plans related to workers' compensation medical services, medical and functional outcomes and satisfaction with medical care
- Assist the DWC administrative director in analyzing and implementing new legislation
- Advise and assist the DWC administrative director in the formulation and analysis of policies on utilization and reimbursement in workers' compensation, including fee schedules
- Represent the DWC at hearings, meetings, committees and before other agencies and public organizations on issues related to medical and health issues in workers' compensation.

"The main goal of our workers' comp system is to help injured employees achieve functional improvement and return to their jobs, and we can accomplish that goal through prompt, effective treatment," said Searcy. "I'm excited about producing materials and developing programs like Web based training that will also help physicians in the transition to treatment guidelines and the use of the AMA guides to evaluate impairment."

Searcy is a licensed physician and surgeon and is board certified in family practice. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from the University of California (UC), San Diego and graduated from the UC Davis Medical School in 1979. Searcy completed an occupational and environmental medicine "mini residency" at UC San Francisco and completed post-graduate courses in occupational medicine at the Medical School of Wisconsin. Searcy worked as both a physician and medical director in occupational medicine practices before coming to the Department of Industrial Relations, where she has served as associate medical director at the Industrial Medical Council and for the DWC since 1995.

This position does not require Senate confirmation

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