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DWCNewsline

Division of Workers' Compensation
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Division of Workers' Compensation's amended medical provider network and employee information regulations approved by Office of Administrative Law

Amendments become effective Oct. 8, 2010

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has amended regulations on medical provider network (MPN) and employee information. The final regulations were filed with the secretary of state yesterday, giving employers and insurers 60 days to comply with regulations after yesterday's approval by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). Employers and insurers will be required to revise their employee notices and workers' compensation posters to comply with the regulations effective Oct. 8, 2010. The revised regulations streamline the employee MPN notices and procedures and update the employee information provided to workers.

The approval of this rulemaking marks the completion of another set of regulations that is part of DWC's 12-point plan as the division works to re-craft regulations to streamline and relieve the administrative burdens and costs in California's workers' compensation system.

The amendments to the regulations include the following:

- allows MPN notices to be distributed electronically to all covered workers
- eliminates the 14-day MPN implementation and change of MPN notice period
- further defines and streamlines the MPN implementation notice
- reduces distribution of both the Change of MPN notices and the Termination/Cessation of Use of MPN notices only to covered injured workers
- eliminates only the filing of the Change of MPN notices with DWC
- clarifies material modifications that require filing with DWC
- clarifies provider listing requirements
- requires MPN notices to be in Spanish only where there are Spanish speaking employees
- requires an MPN contact e-mail address to be included in notices

- requires access to the MPN contact through the toll-free number
- updates the Employee Poster and Notice of Potential Eligibility and DWC Claim Form 1

Additional information and the final text of the regulations can be found at

http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/DWCPropRegs/MPN_Regulations/MPN_Regulations.htm.

The final regulatory amendments to MPN and employee information regulations are authorized by Labor Code sections 4616, 3550, and 3551. These Labor Code sections require the administrative director to adopt regulations for MPN's and employee information on workers' compensation benefits.

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