

## N E W S L I N E

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### **DWC Issues 15-Day Notice for Modifications to Proposed Medical Provider Networks Regulations**

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has posted a 15-day notice of modification to the proposed medical provider networks (MPN) regulations to the DWC [website](#). Members of the public are invited to present written comments regarding the proposed modifications to [dwcrules@dir.ca.gov](mailto:dwcrules@dir.ca.gov) until 5 p.m. on December 26, 2013.

The proposed modifications include:

- Clarification of individual physician acknowledgments and streamlining of group acknowledgment requirements
- Penalty changes to align notice violations with the entity responsible for giving actual notice, and penalty changes to limit multiple violations for an MPN applicant and reduction of penalties
- Access standards revised to delete five commonly used specialties, but out-of-network treatment required if time and location requirements for treatment not met within MPN
- Clarifications to alternative access standard requirements, out-of-network policies and required physician appointment time frames
- Reapproval plan changes, including a six-month review period and clarification regarding geocoding requirements
- MPNs approved on or before January 1, 2011 will be deemed approved until December 31, 2014
- Change from 30 to 45 days to correct reported provider listing inaccuracies

- Clarification of definitions for “ancillary services,” “entity that provides physician network services,” “health care shortage,” “MPN Medical Access Assistants,” “MPN Plan,” and “MPN Applicant”
- Clarification of MPN Medical Access Assistant responsibilities
- Clarification of application plan requirements: including for electronic signatures, ancillary services and quality of care
- Change in definition for “systematic failure” of MPN as a basis for a Petition for Suspension or Revocation
- Elimination of modification filing requirements for a 10 percent provider listing change and for a 25 percent change in covered employees
- Clarification of documentary evidence to produce for random reviews
- Changes to mitigation requirements to specify a time frame and to allow for first time violations to be considered as a factor.

The notice, text of the regulations, and forms can be found on the proposed regulations [page](#).

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