

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

DESIGNATED PHYSICIAN PROCESS

On March 14, 2006, the California Office of Administrative Law Department approved new rules and regulations pertaining to the predesignation of a personal physician. These rules and regulations provide clarification regarding how an injured employee must predesignate their personal treating physician and exactly what type of physicians can be predesignated.

A pre-designated physician form must be on file if the employee chooses to seek treatment from their primary care physician should a work related injury or illness occur. If a doctor has not been pre-designated prior to a work related injury or illness, employees are required to contact the TCOE Human Resources office for treatment authorization.

If you wish to designate a personal physician to treat you in the event of a workers' compensation injury or illness, please complete the attached form entitled "**Employee Designation of Personal Physician**" form. This form must be signed by you **AND** your personal physician must sign the "**Personal Physician Acknowledgment**" form. It is the employee's responsibility to obtain their physician's signature. Both forms must be returned to the County Office Human Resources department **BEFORE** an injury occurs in order to be valid.

If you do not pre-designate a personal physician and you experience an on-the-job injury or illness, you will be required to be treated at a TCOE authorized medical facility. In an emergency situation, the emergency rooms at any local hospital will be used.

Under the law, all pre-designations of a personal physician **MUST** meet **ALL** of the following requirements found in Labor Code Section 4600(d)(1):

1. Your predesignated personal physical must be your primary treating physical that has previously directed your medical care and who retains your medical history and records.
2. Your predesignated personal physician must be your primary treating physician that has limited his or her practice of medicine to general practice or who is board-certified or board eligible internist, pediatrician, obstetrician-gynecology or family practitioner.
3. You must provide the name and address of your predesignated personal physician **in writing**, prior to being injured and you must provide **written** documentation that your physician has agreed to be predesignated.

In addition, the new law provides California employers the ability to establish a Medical Provider Network (MPN) any time on, or after, January 1, 2005. Our workers' compensation carrier, Keenan & Associates, has established an MPN and is making it mandatory that we utilize this network. What this means is that after initial treatment of a workers' compensation injury or illness, our employees have the right to change physicians but must choose a physician with the MPN. Employees have the right to seek a second and third opinion within the MPN if they disagree with the initial diagnosis. After the third opinion, the employee has the right to request an Independent Medical Review (IMR) by a physician appointed by the Administrative Director (AD). If you have internet access, you may locate a physician with in MPN by visiting www.harborsys.com/keenan or by calling (888) 521-7080

Keenan & Associates believes that by establishing an MPN, we can continue to deliver prompt, effective, and high quality medical treatment to our injured employees while taking measures to counter the continuing rising costs of medical treatment.

A safe working environment is our priority. However, should an accident or injury occur we want to ensure that our employees receive prompt effective medical treatment. Our goal is to assist injured employees in making a full recovery and returning to their job as soon as possible.