

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
Division of Workers' Compensation



To Report A Claim Contact:  
**ZURICH CLAIMS SERVICES**  
Telephone: 800-987-3373

Notice to Employees--Injuries Caused By Work

You may be entitled to workers' compensation benefits if you are injured or become ill because of your job. Workers' compensation covers most work-related physical or mental injuries and illnesses. An injury or illness can be caused by one event (such as hurting your back in a fall) or by repeated exposures (such as hurting your wrist from doing the same motion over and over).

**Benefits.** Workers' compensation benefits include:

- **Medical Care:** Doctor visits, hospital services, physical therapy, lab tests, x-rays, medicines, medical equipment and travel costs that are reasonably necessary to treat your injury. You should never see a bill. There are limits on chiropractic, physical therapy and occupational therapy visits.
- **Temporary Disability (TD) Benefits:** Payments if you lose wages while recovering. For most injuries, TD benefits may not be paid for more than 104 weeks within five years from the date of injury.
- **Permanent Disability (PD) Benefits:** Payments if you do not recover completely and your injury causes a permanent loss of physical or mental function that a doctor can measure.
- **Supplemental Job Displacement Benefit:** A nontransferable voucher, if you are injured on or after 1/1/2004, your injury causes permanent disability, and your employer does not offer you regular, modified, or alternative work.
- **Death Benefits:** Paid to your dependents if you die from a work-related injury or illness.

**Naming Your Own Physician Before Injury or Illness (Predesignation).** You may be able to choose the doctor who will treat you for a job injury or illness. If eligible, you must tell your employer, in writing, the name and address of your personal physician or medical group *before* you are injured. You must obtain their agreement to treat you for your work injury. For instructions, see the written information about workers' compensation that your employer is required to give to new employees.

If You Get Hurt:

1. **Get Medical Care.** If you need emergency care, call 911 for help immediately from the hospital, ambulance, fire department or police department. If you need first aid, contact your employer.
2. **Report Your Injury.** Report the injury immediately to your supervisor or to an employer representative. Don't delay. There are time limits. If you wait too long, you may lose your right to benefits. Your employer is required to provide you with a claim form within one working day after learning about your injury. Within one working day after you file a claim form, your employer or claims administrator must authorize the provision of all treatment, up to ten thousand dollars, consistent with the applicable treatment guidelines, for your alleged injury until the claim is accepted or rejected.
3. **See Your Primary Treating Physician (PTP).** This is the doctor with overall responsibility for treating your injury or illness.
  - If you predesignated your personal physician or a medical group, you may see your personal physician or the medical group after you are injured.
  - If your employer is using a medical provider network (MPN) or a health care organization (HCO), in most cases you will be treated within the MPN or HCO unless you predesignated a personal physician or medical group. An MPN is a group of physicians and health care providers who provide treatment to workers injured on the job. You should receive information from your employer if you are covered by an HCO or a MPN. Contact your employer for more information.
  - If your employer is not using an MPN or HCO, in most cases the claims administrator can choose the doctor who first treats you when you are injured, unless you predesignated a personal physician or medical group.
4. You may consult a licensed attorney to advise you of your rights under workers' compensation laws. In most instances, attorney's fees will be paid from your recovery.
5. **Medical Provider Networks.** Your employer may be using an MPN, which is a group of health care providers designated to provide treatment to workers injured on the job. If you have predesignated a personal physician or medical group prior to your work injury, then you may go there to receive treatment from your predesignated doctor. If you are treating with a non-MPN doctor for an existing injury, you may be required to change to a doctor within the MPN. For more information, see the MPN contact information below:

MPN website: \_\_\_\_\_

MPN Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_ MPN Identification number: \_\_\_\_\_

If you need help locating an MPN physician, call your MPN access assistant at: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions about the MPN or want to file a complaint against the MPN, call the MPN Contact Person at: \_\_\_\_\_

**Discrimination.** It is illegal for your employer to punish or fire you for having a work injury or illness, for filing a claim, or testifying in another person's workers' compensation case. If proven, you may receive lost wages, job reinstatement, increased benefits, and costs and expenses up to limits set by the state.

**Questions?** Learn more about workers' compensation by reading the information that your employer is required to give you at time of hire. If you have questions, see your employer or the claims administrator (who handles workers' compensation claims for your employer):

Claims Administrator \_\_\_\_\_ **ZURICH CLAIMS SERVICES** Phone \_\_\_\_\_ **800-987-3373**

Workers' compensation insurer \_\_\_\_\_ **Zurich American Insurance Company** (Enter "self-insured" if appropriate)

You can also get free information from a State Division of Workers' Compensation Information (DWC) & Assistance Officer. The nearest Information & Assistance Officer can be found at location: **160 Promenade Circle, Suite 300** or **Sacramento, CA 95834-2962** by calling toll-free **(800) 736-7401**. Learn more information about workers' compensation online: [www.dwc.ca.gov](http://www.dwc.ca.gov) and access a useful booklet "Workers' Compensation in California: A Guidebook for Injured Workers."

**False claims and false denials.** Any person who makes or causes to be made any knowingly false or fraudulent material statement or material representation for the purpose of obtaining or denying workers' compensation benefits or payments is guilty of a felony and may be fined and imprisoned.

Your employer may not be liable for the payment of workers' compensation benefits for any injury that arises from your voluntary participation in any **off-duty, recreational, social, or athletic activity** that is not part of your work-related duties.



The Division of Labor Standards Enforcement believes that the sample posting below meets the requirements of Labor Code Section 1102.8(a). This document must be printed to 8.5 x 14 inch paper with margins no larger than one-half inch in order to conform to the statutory requirement that the lettering be larger than size 14 point type.

## **WHISTLEBLOWERS ARE PROTECTED**

It is the public policy of the State of California to encourage employees to notify an appropriate government or law enforcement agency, person with authority over the employee, or another employee with authority to investigate, discover, or correct the violation or noncompliance, and to provide information to and testify before a public body conducting an investigation, hearing or inquiry, when they have reason to believe their employer is violating a state or federal statute, or violating or not complying with a local, state or federal rule or regulation.

### **Who is protected?**

Pursuant to California Labor Code Section 1102.5, employees are the protected class of individuals. "Employee" means any person employed by an employer, private or public, including, but not limited to, individuals employed by the state or any subdivision thereof, any county, city, city and county, including any charter city or county, and any school district, community college district, municipal or public corporation, political subdivision, or the University of California. [California Labor Code Section 1106]

### **What is a whistleblower?**

A "whistleblower" is an employee who discloses information to a government or law enforcement agency, person with authority over the employee, or to another employee with authority to investigate, discover, or correct the violation or noncompliance, or who provides information to or testifies before a public body conducting an investigation, hearing or inquiry, where the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses:

1. A violation of a state or federal statute,
2. A violation or noncompliance with a local, state or federal rule or regulation, or
3. With reference to employee safety or health, unsafe working conditions or work practices in the employee's employment or place of employment.

A whistleblower can also be an employee who refuses to participate in an activity that would result in a violation of a state or federal statute, or a violation of or noncompliance with a local, state or federal rule or regulation.

### **What protections are afforded to whistleblowers?**

1. An employer may not make, adopt, or enforce any rule, regulation, or policy preventing an employee from being a whistleblower.
2. An employer may not retaliate against an employee who is a whistleblower.
3. An employer may not retaliate against an employee for refusing to participate in an activity that would result in a violation of a state or federal statute, or a violation or noncompliance with a state or federal rule or regulation.
4. An employer may not retaliate against an employee for having exercised his or her rights as a whistleblower in any former employment.

Under California Labor Code Section 1102.5, if an employer retaliates against a whistleblower, the employer may be required to reinstate the employee's employment and work benefits, pay lost wages, and take other steps necessary to comply with the law.

### **How to report improper acts**

If you have information regarding possible violations of state or federal statutes, rules, or regulations, or violations of fiduciary responsibility by a corporation or limited liability company to its shareholders, investors, or employees, **call the California State Attorney General's Whistleblower Hotline at 1-800-952-5225**. The Attorney General will refer your call to the appropriate government authority for review and possible investigation.



# Job Safety and Health IT'S THE LAW!

## All workers have the right to:

- A safe workplace.
- Raise a safety or health concern with your employer or OSHA, or report a work-related injury or illness, without being retaliated against.
- Receive information and training on job hazards, including all hazardous substances in your workplace.
- Request a confidential OSHA inspection of your workplace if you believe there are unsafe or unhealthy conditions. You have the right to have a representative contact OSHA on your behalf.
- Participate (or have your representative participate) in an OSHA inspection and speak in private to the inspector.
- File a complaint with OSHA within 30 days (by phone, online or by mail) if you have been retaliated against for using your rights.
- See any OSHA citations issued to your employer.
- Request copies of your medical records, tests that measure hazards in the workplace, and the workplace injury and illness log.

## Employers must:

- Provide employees a workplace free from recognized hazards. It is illegal to retaliate against an employee for using any of their rights under the law, including raising a health and safety concern with you or with OSHA, or reporting a work-related injury or illness.
- Comply with all applicable OSHA standards.
- Notify OSHA within 8 hours of a workplace fatality or within 24 hours of any work-related inpatient hospitalization, amputation, or loss of an eye.
- Provide required training to all workers in a language and vocabulary they can understand.
- Prominently display this poster in the workplace.
- Post OSHA citations at or near the place of the alleged violations.

On-Site Consultation services are available to small and medium-sized employers, without citation or penalty, through OSHA-supported consultation programs in every state.

*This poster is available free from OSHA.*

**Contact OSHA. We can help.**





# Safety and Health Protection on the Job

State of California  
Department of Industrial Relations



California law provides workplace safety and health protections for workers through regulations enforced by the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA). This poster explains some basic requirements and procedures to comply with the state's workplace safety and health standards and orders. The law requires that this poster be displayed. Failure to do so could result in a substantial penalty. Cal/OSHA standards can be found at [www.dir.ca.gov/samples/search/query.htm](http://www.dir.ca.gov/samples/search/query.htm).

### WHAT AN EMPLOYER MUST DO:

All employers must provide work and workplaces that are safe and healthful. In other words, as an employer, you must follow state laws governing job safety and health. Failure to do so can result in a threat to the life or health of workers, and substantial monetary penalties.

You must display this poster in a conspicuous place where notices to employees are customarily posted so everyone on the job can be aware of basic rights and responsibilities.

You must have a written and effective Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) meeting the requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 8, section 3203 ([www.dir.ca.gov/title8/3203.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/3203.html)) and provide access to employees and their designated representatives.

You must be aware of hazards your employees face on the job and keep records showing that each employee has been trained in the hazards unique to each job assignment.

You must correct any hazardous condition that you know may result in injury to employees. Failure to do so could result in criminal charges, monetary penalties, and even incarceration.

You must notify a local Cal/OSHA district office of any serious injury or illness, or death, occurring on the job. Be sure to do this immediately after calling for emergency help to assist the injured employee. Failure to report a serious injury or illness, or death, within 8 hours can result in a minimum civil penalty of \$5,000.

### WHAT AN EMPLOYER MUST NEVER DO:

Never permit an employee to do work that violates Cal/OSHA workplace safety and health regulations.

Never permit an employee to be exposed to harmful substances without providing adequate protection.

Never allow an untrained employee to perform hazardous work.

### EMPLOYEES HAVE CERTAIN WORKPLACE SAFETY & HEALTH RIGHTS:

As an employee, you (or someone acting for you) have the right to file a confidential complaint and request an inspection of your workplace if you believe conditions there are unsafe or unhealthful. This is done by contacting the local Cal/OSHA district office (see below). Your name is not revealed by Cal/OSHA, unless you request otherwise.

You also have the right to bring unsafe or unhealthful conditions to the attention of the Cal/OSHA investigator inspecting your workplace.

You and your designated representative have the right to access the employer's IIPP. Any employee has the right to refuse to perform work that would violate an occupational safety or health standard or order where such violation would create a real and apparent hazard to the employee or other employees.

You may not be fired or punished in any way for filing a complaint about unsafe or unhealthful working conditions, or for otherwise exercising your rights to a safe and healthful workplace. If you feel that you have been fired or punished for exercising your rights, you may file a complaint about this type of discrimination by contacting the nearest office of the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (Labor Commissioner's Office) or the San Francisco office of the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (Employees of state or local government agencies may only file these complaints with the California Labor Commissioner's Office.) Consult your local telephone directory for the office nearest you.

### EMPLOYEES ALSO HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES:

To keep the workplace and your coworkers safe, you should tell your employer about any hazard that could result in an injury or illness to an employee. While working, you must always obey state workplace safety and health laws.

### HELP IS AVAILABLE:

To learn more about workplace safety rules, you may contact Cal/OSHA Consultation Services for free information, required forms, and publications. You can also contact a local district office of Cal/OSHA. If you prefer, you may retain a competent private consultant, or ask your workers' compensation insurance carrier for guidance in obtaining information.

Call the FREE Worker Information Helpline – (833) 579-0927		
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (CAL/OSHA)		
HEADQUARTERS: 1515 Clay Street, Ste. 1901, Oakland, CA 94612 – Telephone (510) 286-7000		
District Offices		Cal OSHA Consultation Services
Field / Area Offices		
American Canyon	3419 Broadway St., Ste. H8, American Canyon 94503	(707) 649-3700
Bakersfield	7718 Meany Ave., Bakersfield 93308	(661) 588-6400
Foster City	1065 East Hillsdale Bl., Ste. 110, Foster City 94404	(650) 573-3812
Fremont	39141 Civic Center Dr., Ste. 310, Fremont 94538	(510) 794-2521
Fresno	2550 Mariposa St., Rm. 4000, Fresno 93721	(559) 445-5302
Long Beach	1500 Hughes Way, Suite C-201, Long Beach 90810	(424) 450-2630
Los Angeles	320 West Fourth St., Rm. 820, Los Angeles 90013	(213) 576-7451
Modesto	4206 Technology Dr., Ste. 3, Modesto 95356	(209) 545-7310
Monrovia	800 Royal Oaks Dr., Ste. 105, Monrovia 91016	(626) 239-0369
Oakland	1515 Clay St., Ste. 1303, Box 41, Oakland 94612	(510) 622-2916
Redding	381 Hemsted Dr., Redding 96002	(530) 224-4743
Sacramento	1750 Howe Ave., Ste. 430, Sacramento 95825	(916) 263-2800
San Bernardino	464 West Fourth St., Ste. 332, San Bernardino 92401	(909) 383-4321
San Diego	7575 Metropolitan Dr., Ste. 207, San Diego 92108	(619) 767-2280
San Francisco	455 Golden Gate Ave., Rm. 9516, San Francisco 94102	(415) 557-0100
Santa Ana	2 MacArthur Place, Ste. 720, Santa Ana 92707	(714) 558-4451
Van Nuys	6150 Van Nuys Blvd., Ste. 405, Van Nuys 91401	(818) 901-5403
•Fresno / Central Valley	2550 Mariposa Mall, Rm. 2005 Fresno 93721	(559) 445-6800
•La Palma / Los Angeles / Orange County	1 Centerpointe Dr., Ste. 150 La Palma 90623	(714) 562-5525
•Oakland/ Bay Area	1515 Clay St., Ste 1103 Oakland 94612	(510) 622-2891
•Sacramento / Northern CA	1750 Howe Ave., Ste. 490 Sacramento 95825	(916) 263-0704
•San Bernardino	464 West Fourth St., Ste. 339 San Bernardino 92401	(909) 383-4567
•San Diego / Imperial County	7575 Metropolitan Dr., Ste. 204 San Diego 92108	(619) 767-2060
•San Fernando Valley	6150 Van Nuys Blvd., Ste. 307 Van Nuys 91401	(818) 901-5754
Consultation Region Office		
•Fresno	2550 Mariposa Mall, Rm. 3014 Fresno 93721	(559) 445-6800

## Pre-Designating a Medical Provider in California

Employees working remotely in California can predesignate a primary care physician or treating specialist to be their physician in the event of a worker's compensation injury. This must be done prior to the injury occurring.

The steps to predesignate a physician are...

1. Provider must be a doctor of medicine (MD) or doctor of osteopathy (DO) and agrees in advance to treating the employee for work related injuries
2. Send DAS a completed **Predesignation of Personal Physician** and/or **Notice of Personal Chiropractor or Personal Acupuncturist** form (see pages 2 & 3). Send these forms to:  
[risk.management@das.oregon.gov](mailto:risk.management@das.oregon.gov)

The employee can predesignate a chiropractor or acupuncturist; however, they cannot be the initial treating physician. The employee can switch to their chiropractor or acupuncturist upon request and after they have first seen a physician.

## PREDESIGNATION OF PERSONAL PHYSICIAN

In the event you sustain an injury or illness related to your employment, you may be treated for such injury or illness by your personal medical doctor (M.D.), doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) or medical group if:

- on the date of your work injury you have health care coverage for injuries or illnesses that are not work related;
- the doctor is your regular physician, who shall be either a physician who has limited his or her practice of medicine to general practice or who is a board-certified or board-eligible internist, pediatrician, obstetrician-gynecologist, or family practitioner, and has previously directed your medical treatment, and retains your medical records;
- your "personal physician" may be a medical group if it is a single corporation or partnership composed of licensed doctors of medicine or osteopathy, which operates an integrated multispecialty medical group providing comprehensive medical services predominantly for nonoccupational illnesses and injuries;
- prior to the injury your doctor agrees to treat you for work injuries or illnesses;
- prior to the injury you provided your employer the following in writing: (1) notice that you want your personal doctor to treat you for a work-related injury or illness, and (2) your personal doctor's name and business address.

You may use this form to notify your employer if you wish to have your personal medical doctor or a doctor of osteopathic medicine treat you for a work-related injury or illness and the above requirements are met.

### NOTICE OF PREDESIGNATION OF PERSONAL PHYSICIAN

**Employee: Complete this section.**

To: \_\_\_\_\_ (name of employer) If I have a work-related injury or illness, I choose to be treated by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name of doctor)(M.D., D.O., or medical group)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(street address, city, state, ZIP)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(telephone number)

Employee Name (please print):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee's Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Insurance Company, Plan, or Fund providing health coverage for nonoccupational injuries or illnesses:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Physician: I agree to this Predesignation:**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Physician or Designated Employee of the Physician or Medical Group)

The physician is not required to sign this form, however, if the physician or designated employee of the physician or medical group does not sign, other documentation of the physician's agreement to be predesignated will be required pursuant to Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9780.1(a)(3).

## **§ 9783.1. DWC Form 9783.1 Notice of Personal Chiropractor or Personal Acupuncturist.**

### **NOTICE OF PERSONAL CHIROPRACTOR OR PERSONAL ACUPUNCTURIST**

If your employer or your employer's insurer does not have a Medical Provider Network, you may be able to change your treating physician to your personal chiropractor or acupuncturist following a work-related injury or illness. In order to be eligible to make this change, you must give your employer the name and business address of a personal chiropractor or acupuncturist in writing prior to the injury or illness. Your claims administrator generally has the right to select your treating physician within the first 30 days after your employer knows of your injury or illness. After your claims administrator has initiated your treatment with another doctor during this period, you may then, upon request, have your treatment transferred to your personal chiropractor or acupuncturist.

**NOTE:** If your date of injury is January 1, 2004 or later, a chiropractor cannot be your treating physician after you have received 24 chiropractic visits unless your employer has authorized additional visits in writing. The term "chiropractic visit" means any chiropractic office visit, regardless of whether the services performed involve chiropractic manipulation or are limited to evaluation and management. Once you have received 24 chiropractic visits, if you still require medical treatment, you will have to select a new physician who is not a chiropractor. This prohibition shall not apply to visits for postsurgical physical medicine visits prescribed by the surgeon, or physician designated by the surgeon, under the postsurgical component of the Division of Workers' Compensation's Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule.

You may use this form to notify your employer of your personal chiropractor or acupuncturist.

#### **Your Chiropractor or Acupuncturist's Information:**

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**(name of chiropractor or acupuncturist)**

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**(street address, city, state, zip code)**

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**(telephone number)**

Employee Name **(please print):**

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Employee's Address:

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Employee's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## TIME OF HIRE PAMPHLET

This pamphlet, or a similar one that has been approved by the Administrative Director, must be given to all newly hired employees in the State of California. Employers and claims administrators may use the content of this document and put their logos and additional information on it. The content of this pamphlet applies to all industrial injuries that occur on or after January 1, 2013.

### WHAT IS WORKERS' COMPENSATION?

If you get hurt on the job, your employer is required by law to pay for workers' compensation benefits. You could get hurt by:

One event at work. Examples: hurting your back in a fall, getting burned by a chemical that splashes on your skin, getting hurt in a car accident while making deliveries.

—or—

Repeated exposures at work. Examples: hurting your wrist from using vibrating tools, losing your hearing because of constant loud noise.

—or—

Workplace crime. Examples: you get hurt in a store robbery, physically attacked by an unhappy customer.

### Discrimination is illegal

It is illegal under Labor Code section 132a for your employer to punish or fire you because you:

- File a workers' compensation claim
- Intend to file a workers' compensation claim
- Settle a workers' compensation claim
- Testify or intend to testify for another injured worker.

If it is found that your employer discriminated against you, he or she may be ordered to return you to your job. Your employer may also be made to pay for lost wages, increased workers' compensation benefits, and costs and expenses set by state law.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- **Medical care:** Paid for by your employer to help you recover from an injury or illness caused by work. Doctor visits, hospital services, physical therapy, lab tests and x-rays are some of the medical services that may be provided. These services should be necessary to treat your injury. There are limits on some services such as physical and occupational therapy and chiropractic care.



- **Temporary disability benefits:** Payments if you lose wages because your injury prevents you from doing your usual job while recovering. The amount you may get is up to two-thirds of your wages. There are minimum and maximum payment limits set by state law. You will be paid every two weeks if you are eligible. For most injuries, payments may not exceed 104 weeks within five years from your date of injury. Temporary disability (TD) stops when you return to work, or when the doctor releases you for work, or says your injury has improved as much as it's going to.
- **Permanent disability benefits:** Payments if you don't recover completely. You will be paid every two weeks if you are eligible. There are minimum and maximum weekly payment rates established by state law. The amount of payment is based on:
  - Your doctor's medical reports
  - Your age
  - Your occupation
- **Supplemental job displacement benefits:** This is a voucher for up to \$6,000 that you can use for retraining or skill enhancement at an approved school, books, tools, licenses or certification fees, or other resources to help you find a new job. You are eligible for this voucher if:
  - You have a permanent disability.
  - Your employer does not offer regular, modified, or alternative work, within 60 days after the claims administrator receives a doctor's report saying you have made a maximum medical recovery.
- **Death benefits:** Payments to your spouse, children or other dependents if you die from a job injury or illness. The amount of payment is based on the number of dependents. The benefit is paid every two weeks at a rate of at least \$224 per week. In addition, workers' compensation provides a burial allowance.

### **OTHER BENEFITS**

You may file a claim with the Employment Development Department (EDD) to get state disability benefits when workers' compensation benefits are delayed, denied, or have ended. There are time restrictions so for more information contact the local office of EDD or go to their web site [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov).

If your injury results in a permanent disability (PD) and the state determines that your PD benefit is disproportionately low compared to your earning loss, you may qualify for additional money from the Department of Industrial Relation's special earnings loss supplement program also known as the return to work program. If you have questions or think you qualify, contact the Information & Assistance Unit by going to [www.dwc.ca.gov](http://www.dwc.ca.gov) and looking under "Workers'

Compensation programs and units” for the “Information & Assistance Unit” link or visit the DIR web site at [www.dir.ca.gov](http://www.dir.ca.gov).

**Workers’ compensation fraud is a crime**

Any person who makes or causes to be made any knowingly false statement in order to obtain or deny workers’ compensation benefits or payments is guilty of a felony. If convicted, the person will have to pay fines up to \$150,000 and/or serve up to five years in jail.

**WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE AN INJURY?**

**Report your injury to your employer**

Tell your supervisor right away no matter how slight the injury may be. Don’t delay – there are time limits. You could lose your right to benefits if your employer does not learn of your injury within 30 days. If your injury or illness is one that develops over time, report it as soon as you learn it was caused by your job.

If you cannot report to the employer or don’t hear from the claims administrator after you have reported your injury, contact the claims administrator yourself.

**Workers’ compensation insurance company or if employer is self-insured, person responsible for handling the claim is:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_.

You may be able to find the name of your employer’s workers’ compensation insurer at [www.caworkcompcoverage.com](http://www.caworkcompcoverage.com). If no coverage exists or coverage has expired, contact the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement at [www.dir.ca.gov/DLSE](http://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSE) as all employees must be covered by law.

**Get emergency treatment if needed**

If it’s a medical emergency, go to an emergency room right away. Tell the medical provider who treats you that your injury is job related. Your employer may tell you where to go for follow up treatment.

**Emergency telephone number:** Call 911 for an ambulance, fire department or police. For non-emergency medical care, contact your employer, the workers' compensation claims administrator or go to this facility:

\_\_\_\_\_.

### **Fill out DWC 1 claim form and give it to your employer**

Your employer must give you a [DWC 1 claim form](#) within one working day after learning about your injury or illness. Complete the employee portion, sign and give it back to your employer. Your employer will then file your claim with the claims administrator. Your employer must authorize treatment within one working day of receiving the DWC 1 claim form.

If the injury is from repeated exposures, you have one year from when you realized your injury was job related to file a claim.

In either case, you may receive up to \$10,000 in employer-paid medical care until your claim is either accepted or denied. The claims administrator has up to 90 days to decide whether to accept or deny your claim. Otherwise your case is presumed payable.

Your employer or the claims administrator will send you "benefit notices" that will advise you of the status of your claim.

## **MORE ABOUT MEDICAL CARE**

### **What is a Primary Treating Physician (PTP)?**

This is the doctor with overall responsibility for treating your injury or illness. He or she may be:

- The doctor you name in writing *before* you get hurt on the job
- A doctor from the medical provider network (MPN)
- The doctor chosen by your employer during the first 30 days of injury if your employer does not have an MPN or
- The doctor you chose after the first 30 days if your employer does not have an MPN.

### **What is a Medical Provider Network (MPN)?**

An MPN is a select group of health care providers who treat injured workers. Check with your employer to see if they are using an MPN.

If you have not named a doctor before you get hurt and your employer is using an MPN, you will see an MPN doctor. After your first visit, you are free to choose another doctor from the MPN list.

### **What is Predesignation?**

Predesignation is when you name your regular doctor to treat you if you get hurt on the job. The doctor must be a medical doctor (M.D.), doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) or a medical group with an M.D. or D.O. You must name your doctor in writing *before* you get hurt or become ill.



You may predesignate a doctor if you have health care coverage for non-work injuries and illnesses. The doctor must have:

- Treated you
- Maintained your medical history and records before your injury and
- Agreed to treat you for a work-related injury or illness before you get hurt or become ill.

You may use the “predesignation of personal physician” form included with this pamphlet. After you fill in the form, be sure to give it to your employer.

If your employer does not have an approved MPN, you may name your chiropractor or acupuncturist to treat you for work related injuries. The notice of personal chiropractor or acupuncturist must be in writing *before* you get hurt. You may use the form included in this pamphlet. After you fill in the form, be sure to give it to your employer.

With some exceptions, state law does not allow a chiropractor to continue as your treating physician after 24 visits. Once you have received 24 chiropractic visits, if you still require medical treatment, you will have to select a new physician who is not a chiropractor. The term “chiropractic visit” means any chiropractic office visit, regardless of whether the services performed involve chiropractic manipulation or are limited to evaluation and management.

Exceptions to the prohibition on a chiropractor continuing as your treating physician after 24 visits include postsurgical physical medicine visits prescribed by the surgeon, or physician designated by the surgeon, under the postsurgical component of the Division of Workers’ Compensation’s Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule, or if your employer has authorized additional visits in writing.

#### **WHAT IF THERE IS A PROBLEM?**

If you have a concern, speak up. Talk to your employer or the claims administrator handling your claim and try to solve the problem. If this doesn’t work, get help by trying the following:

#### **Contact the Division of Workers’ Compensation (DWC) Information and Assistance (I&A) Unit**

All 24 DWC offices throughout the state provide information and assistance on rights, benefits and obligations under California's workers' compensation laws. I&A officers help resolve disputes without formal proceedings. Their goal is to get you full and timely benefits. Their services are free.

To contact the nearest I&A Unit, go to [www.dwc.ca.gov](http://www.dwc.ca.gov) and under “Workers’ Compensation programs and units”, click on “Information & Assistance Unit.” At this site you will find fact sheets, guides and information to help you.

The nearest I&A Unit is located at:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Consult with an attorney**

Most attorneys offer one free consultation. If you decide to hire an attorney, his or her fees may be taken out of some of your benefits. For names of workers' compensation attorneys, call the State Bar of California at (415) 538-2120 or go to their website at [www.californiaspecialist.org](http://www.californiaspecialist.org). You may get a list of attorneys from your local I&A Unit or look in the yellow pages.

**Warning**

Your employer may not pay workers' compensation benefits if you get hurt in a voluntary off-duty recreational, social or athletic activity that is not part of your work-related duties.

**Additional rights**

You may also have other rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA). For additional information, contact FEHA at (800) 884-1684 or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) at (800) 669-4000.

The information contained in this pamphlet conforms to the informational requirements found in Labor Code sections 3551 and 3553 and California Code of Regulation, Title 8, sections 9880 and 9883. This document is approved by the Division of Workers' Compensation administrative director.

Revised 6/17/14 and effective for dates of injuries on or after 1/1/13

## PREDESIGNATION OF PERSONAL PHYSICIAN

In the event you sustain an injury or illness related to your employment, you may be treated for such injury or illness by your personal medical doctor (M.D.), doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) or medical group if:

- on the date of your work injury you have health care coverage for injuries or illnesses that are not work related;
- the doctor is your regular physician, who shall be either a physician who has limited his or her practice of medicine to general practice or who is a board-certified or board-eligible internist, pediatrician, obstetrician-gynecologist, or family practitioner, and has previously directed your medical treatment, and retains your medical records;
- your "personal physician" may be a medical group if it is a single corporation or partnership composed of licensed doctors of medicine or osteopathy, which operates an integrated multispecialty medical group providing comprehensive medical services predominantly for nonoccupational illnesses and injuries;
- prior to the injury your doctor agrees to treat you for work injuries or illnesses;
- prior to the injury you provided your employer the following in writing: (1) notice that you want your personal doctor to treat you for a work-related injury or illness, and (2) your personal doctor's name and business address.

You may use this form to notify your employer if you wish to have your personal medical doctor or a doctor of osteopathic medicine treat you for a work-related injury or illness and the above requirements are met.

### NOTICE OF PREDESIGNATION OF PERSONAL PHYSICIAN

**Employee: Complete this section.**

To: \_\_\_\_\_ (name of employer) If I have a work-related injury or illness, I choose to be treated by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name of doctor)(M.D., D.O., or medical group)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(street address, city, state, ZIP)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(telephone number)

Employee Name (please print):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee's Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Insurance Company, Plan, or Fund providing health coverage for nonoccupational injuries or illnesses:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Physician: I agree to this Predesignation:**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Physician or Designated Employee of the Physician or Medical Group)

The physician is not required to sign this form, however, if the physician or designated employee of the physician or medical group does not sign, other documentation of the physician's agreement to be predesignated will be required pursuant to Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9780.1(a)(3).



## **§ 9783.1. DWC Form 9783.1 Notice of Personal Chiropractor or Personal Acupuncturist.**

### **NOTICE OF PERSONAL CHIROPRACTOR OR PERSONAL ACUPUNCTURIST**

If your employer or your employer's insurer does not have a Medical Provider Network, you may be able to change your treating physician to your personal chiropractor or acupuncturist following a work-related injury or illness. In order to be eligible to make this change, you must give your employer the name and business address of a personal chiropractor or acupuncturist in writing prior to the injury or illness. Your claims administrator generally has the right to select your treating physician within the first 30 days after your employer knows of your injury or illness. After your claims administrator has initiated your treatment with another doctor during this period, you may then, upon request, have your treatment transferred to your personal chiropractor or acupuncturist.

**NOTE:** If your date of injury is January 1, 2004 or later, a chiropractor cannot be your treating physician after you have received 24 chiropractic visits unless your employer has authorized additional visits in writing. The term "chiropractic visit" means any chiropractic office visit, regardless of whether the services performed involve chiropractic manipulation or are limited to evaluation and management. Once you have received 24 chiropractic visits, if you still require medical treatment, you will have to select a new physician who is not a chiropractor. This prohibition shall not apply to visits for postsurgical physical medicine visits prescribed by the surgeon, or physician designated by the surgeon, under the postsurgical component of the Division of Workers' Compensation's Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule.

You may use this form to notify your employer of your personal chiropractor or acupuncturist.

#### **Your Chiropractor or Acupuncturist's Information:**

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**(name of chiropractor or acupuncturist)**

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**(street address, city, state, zip code)**

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**(telephone number)**

Employee Name **(please print)**:

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Employee's Address:

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Employee's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_