

**Division of Workers' Compensation Amends MPN and Employee Information Regulations** **September 2010**

Final regulations were issued on August 10, 2010, which amend Medical Provider Network (MPN) and employee information requirements. Employers and insurers have 60 days to comply with these new regulations and are required to revise employee notices and workers' compensation posters by October 8, 2010.

The revised regulations streamline the employee MPN notices and procedures, as well as update the employee information provided to workers. The approval of this rulemaking marks a milestone in the Department of Workers' Compensation's (DWC) 12-point plan. The DWC's 12-point plan is focused on reducing costs in California's workers' compensation system, in part by streamlining administrative requirement components.

The amendments to the regulations include the following:

- MPNs:
  - Confirms MPN notices can be distributed electronically to covered workers if they have e-mail access.
  - Eliminates the 30-day MPN implementation and change of MPN notice period to 0 days. This means your MPN would be in effect immediately upon distribution of the one page notice.
  - Further defines and streamlines the MPN implementation notice for initial implementation and new hires by allowing a one page notice to be distributed.
  - Reduces distribution of both the full *Employee Notification of Rights* notices, *Change of MPN* notices and the *Termination/Cessation of Use of MPN* notices only to covered injured workers.
  - Clarifies material modifications that require filing with the DWC.
  - Clarifies provider listing requirements. Any lists provided to the DWC will no longer include tax identification numbers or license numbers.
  - 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 the cessation notices.
  - Requires access to the MPN contact through a toll-free number listed on the posting notice, as well as the MPN implementation date, e-mail address and MPN Web site.

- Requires the Full MPN notice of rights to be posted in close proximity to the workers' compensation posting (required by Reg. Section 9881)
- Posting Notices, New Hire Pamphlet, DWC-1 Claim Form/Notice of Potential Eligibility (backside of DWC-1): The DWC posting notice form has been updated to include information about the MPN. The MPN program contact, Web-site and e-mail address are to also be included on the form.

To assist our clients, we have made the necessary revisions to all the above forms. Updated claim forms are available as part of our claims kit, available at <http://www.keenan.com/schools/resources-docs.asp>. Additionally, these will be available to clients through P&C Bridge. Furthermore, Ultra ClaimsONLINE, our online claim reporting system, has been updated to include the revised DWC-1 Claim Form.

We recommend that our clients update their posting notices immediately and begin providing updated new hire pamphlets and DWC Claim forms immediately. Please be aware that a one-page MPN Employee Notification form will need to be distributed to all new hires. A sample notification is attached to this briefing in both English and Spanish.

We have been advised by the DWC that for clients that have an existing MPN that these changes will not require that a Material Modification be filed at this time.

If you have any questions about the information contained in this briefing, please feel free to contact your Account Executive, Claims Analyst or Susie Crane, Director of Managed Care, for questions specific to Medical Provider Networks at (310) 212-0363, ext. 3900 or [scrane@keenan.com](mailto:scrane@keenan.com).

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insert date

Dear Employee,

We are implementing a Medical Provider Network (MPN). This MPN is called "Insert new medical provider network name".

Unless you pre-designate a physician or medical group, your new work injuries arising on or after Insert effective of new MPN (coverage) will be treated by providers in the Insert MPN Name.

If you have an existing workers' compensation injury, you may be required to change to a provider in the new MPN. Please check with your claims adjuster first.

More information about the MPN can be found on the workers' compensation poster or by asking us.

Sincerely,

Insert Employer Name

insert date

Estimado empleado:

Estamos implementando una Red de Proveedores Médicos (MPN). El nombre de esta MPN es “Insert new medical provider network name”.

A no ser que usted haya designado anticipadamente a un médico o a un grupo médico, las nuevas lesiones de trabajo que ocurrieran a partir del Insert effective of new MPN (coverage) inclusive, serán atendidas por los proveedores de Insert MPN Name.

Si actualmente tiene una lesión cubierta por el seguro de compensación de trabajadores, se le podría requerir que cambie su proveedor a la nueva MPN. Sírvase confirmar primero con su administrador de reclamos.

Encontrará información adicional sobre la MPN en los avisos relacionados con la compensación de trabajadores, o puede comunicarse con nosotros.

Atentamente,

Insert Employer Name