

N E W S L I N E

Newsline No.: 2015-100

Date: October 30, 2015

DWC Posts Revised Benefit Notice Manual on Website

The Audit Unit of the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has completed its revision of the [Benefit Notice Manual](#) containing the sample benefit notices.

DWC would like to thank the workers' compensation community for its suggestions, which improved the quality and clarity of the benefit notices.

The "safe harbor" provision of Title 8, Cal. Code of Regs., section 9810(f) provides that "Benefit notices using the sample notices devised by the Administrative Director and available on the Division's website are presumed to be adequate notice to the employee and, ***unless modified***, shall not be subject to audit penalties."

The revisions to the recently approved benefit notice regulations include:

- Elimination of the requirement to provide Fact Sheets as attachments to notices
- Reduction of the requirement to provide a QME panel request form with notices
- Elimination of the warning notice language at the top of notices
- Allowance for employees and their attorneys to choose to receive electronic service of notices.

The benefit notice regulations take effect on January 1, 2016. The Division cautions the claims community that the revised notices may not be used before that date.

###



The [California Department of Industrial Relations](#), established in 1927, protects and improves the health, safety, and economic well-being of over 18 million wage earners, and helps their employers comply with state labor laws. DIR is housed within the [Labor & Workforce Development Agency](#). Non-media inquiries can contact DIR's Communications

Call Center at 1-844-LABOR-DIR (1-844-522-6734) for help in locating the appropriate [division or program](#) in our department.