DWC Issues Notice of Public Hearing for Medical Provider Network Regulations

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) is issuing a notice of public hearing for the Medical Provider Network (MPN) regulations. The proposed rulemaking is to implement Senate Bill 863's changes to Medical Provider Networks. A public hearing on the proposed regulations has been scheduled at 10 a.m., September 30, in the auditorium of the Elihu Harris Building, 1515 Clay Street, Oakland, CA, 94612. Members of the public may also submit written comment on the regulations until 5 p.m. that day.

The proposed amendments to the MPN regulations modify regulatory definitions, which include a definition of an entity that provides physician network services. The regulations also detail the changes to MPN plan requirements, which include physician acknowledgments, Internet postings of providers, medical access assistants, quality of care, geocoding and MPN disclosure requirements to medical providers. In addition, the regulations set the requirements for MPN approval for a period of four years and the procedural timelines for MPN re-approval.

Regarding compliance and enforcement, the proposed regulations set forth the process for filing a written complaint against an MPN, and the manner to petition DWC for the suspension or revocation of MPN status. Finally, the regulations detail more enforcement actions, establishing additional grounds for the probation, suspension, or revocation of an MPN, and the procedure by which MPNs are reviewed by the Division and assessed administrative penalties.

DWC will consider all public comments, and may modify the proposed regulations for consideration during an additional 15-day public comment period. The notices of rulemaking, text of the regulations, and the initial statements of reasons can be found on the MPN rulemaking page.

More information about the rulemaking process can be found on the Office of Administrative Law's (OAL) website.

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