

Fiscal Year 2010 Medical Quality Review Panel Designated Doctor Review Plan

Texas Labor Code sections 413.0511 and 413.0512 require the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) to review the quality of health care provided in the workers' compensation system and take appropriate action as needed. In addition to reviewing health care providers that deliver services, the Texas Labor Code also requires the TDI-DWC to review actions of peer review doctors, designated doctors, Utilization Review Agents, and Independent Review Organizations.

Designated doctors (DDs) are selected by the TDI-DWC to settle unresolved issues related to the certification of Maximum Medical Improvement (MMI), the degree of permanent impairment caused by a work-related injury (also known as an impairment rating), extent of injury, the ability of an injured employee to return to work, and whether an injured employee's disability is a direct result of the compensable injury.

Texas Labor Code section 413.0512 requires the Medical Advisor and Medical Quality Review Panel (MQRP) to focus increased attention on the quality of designated doctor examinations and to impose sanctions on designated doctors found to be in non-compliance with the TDI-DWC rules.

Criteria/Scope

- Accuracy of certifications of maximum medical improvement and impairment ratings assigned using the 4th edition of the *AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment*.

Review Process

- Exclusions
 - DDs with less than 12 exams within the approved date range
 - Exams that were disputed
 - Exams with dates of injury over 2 years
 - Current complaints against DDs
 - DDs previously reviewed in FY 08, FY09, and FY10
- Random selection
 - Select 15 DDs that yield a 98% confidence level (5 high, 5 average, and 5 low)
 - Select random cases per DD that yield a 95% confidence level (5-10 cases)

 - The statistical toolbox developed by the State Auditor's Office will be used to determine the sample size based on the confidence level listed above.

 - Request another random doctor/case if needed
- Data timeframe
 - 6-month data based on exams dates: 1/1/09 through 06/30/09
- Data runs
 - Information Management Services provides the data based on the exclusions and timeframe
 - Workers' Compensation Research provides:
 - DD random selection
 - Case random selection
- MQRP members
 - Assign by specialty and matrix
- MQRP questions
- Document request letter
- Review timeline
 - Expectation is to conclude these reviews within 6 months
- Executive Summary will be provided upon conclusion of this Review