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To: Texas Workers' Compensation Insurance Carriers

From: Kara Mace, Deputy Commissioner, Legal Services

Date: February 4, 2022

RE: Revised DWC Form-073, Work Status Report

The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) is accepting public comments on proposed revisions to the DWC Form-073, *Work Status Report*.

Texas Labor Code Section 402.021 provides the basic goals of the workers' compensation system, including that each injured employee will receive services to facilitate the employee's return to employment as soon as it is considered safe and appropriate by the employee's health care provider. The system must also encourage the safe and timely return of injured employees to productive roles in the workplace.

28 Texas Administrative Code Section 129.5 requires health care practitioners (HCP) to use the DWC Form-073 to document the employee's work status and restrictions in the workplace. The updated form now requires HCPs to identify the injured employee's job classification if work restrictions are necessary.

The revised forms are not a formal rule proposal under the Administrative Procedures Act. DWC will not treat comments as formal public comments. However, DWC will consider any substantive comment before adopting the revised forms. The proposed forms are on the <u>TDI website</u>. Submit comments on the form to <u>RuleComments@tdi.texas.gov</u> or mail your comments to:

Legal Services, MC-LS
Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation
PO Box 12050
Austin, Texas 78711

Submit your comments by 5 p.m., Central time, on Friday, March 4, 2022.