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To: Texas Workers' Compensation System Participants

From: Kara Mace, Deputy Commissioner, Legal Services

Date: July 19, 2021

RE: House Bill 1752, 87th Legislature, Regular Session (2021) - Revised Benefit Review Conference Request Forms (DWC Form-045 and DWC Form-045M) and Plain Language Notices (PLN 01-PLN 13)

House Bill (HB) 1752 allows DWC to conduct benefit review conferences (BRCs) by video conference or phone while providing a "good cause" exception to hold a BRC in person. Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) will continue to schedule all BRCs by videoconference unless it determines a good cause exception exists. To request a good cause exception, a party may file a request with DWC after they receive notice that a BRC is set.

DWC adopted revisions to plain language notices (PLN 01-PLN 13), as well as BRC request forms, DWC Form-045, *Request to Schedule, Reschedule, or Cancel a Benefit Review Conference (BRC)*, or to *Proceed Directly to Contested Case Hearing (CCH)* and DWC Form-045M, *Request to Schedule, Reschedule, or Cancel a Benefit Review Conference to Appeal a Medical Fee Dispute Decision (BRC-MFD)*, effective July 19, 2021. We posted the draft revisions for comment online from June 21, 2021, to July 12, 2021.

The revisions to these forms are necessary to implement HB 1752.

All system participants must use the revised forms, and all insurance carriers must use the revised PLNs, beginning October 18, 2021. The forms are on the [TDI website](#).