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To: Texas Workers' Compensation System Participants

From: Kara Mace, Deputy Commissioner, Legal Services

Date: March 4, 2022

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment on Designated Doctor and Maximum Medical Improvement and Impairment Rating Doctor Rules

The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) [informally proposes amendments](#) to 28 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 127, Designated Doctor Procedures and Requirements, and 28 TAC Section 180.23 to improve the designated doctor (DD) program. DWC staff evaluated the DD program and identified several possible areas of improvement, including changes to:

- training and testing requirements;
- DD qualifications;
- DD certification and renewals;
- multiple certifications; and
- reducing administrative burdens.

To implement many of these improvements, DWC must adopt rules. We hosted several stakeholder meetings in October and November 2021 to discuss the issues and possible solutions and get feedback from system participants.

Potential changes related to DD billing and reimbursement are not included in these amendments. DWC anticipates holding a stakeholder presentation in March 2022 to discuss specific possible changes to the billing methodology for DD exams and possible changes to DD exam reimbursement rates.

We are requesting comments on the rule text. Email your comments to [RuleComments@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:RuleComments@tdi.texas.gov). We must receive your written comments by 5 p.m., Central time, on Monday, April 4, 2022. You may also mail or deliver your comments to:

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