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To: Texas Workers' Compensation System Participants

From: Kara Mace, General Counsel

Date: [May 6, 2026](#)

Subject: Informal working draft of amendments to return-to-work guidelines rule

The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) is accepting public comments on an informal working draft of amendments to 28 Texas Administrative Code Section [137.10](#), concerning return-to-work guidelines.

The amendments are necessary to instruct insurance carriers, health care providers, and employers to use the disability duration values in the current edition of the Official Disability Guidelines by Milliman Care Guidelines (ODG by MCG), instead of the ones in the MDGuidelines (formerly known as Medical Disability Advisor), as guidelines for the evaluation of expected or average return-to-work timeframes.

Because the Texas workers' compensation system requires the use of the disability duration values in the adopted return-to-work guidelines, designated doctors are required to subscribe to these guidelines. MDGuidelines will raise its rates substantially starting on October 1, 2026. To avoid possible additional costs to system participants, since they already use the ODG by MCG for treatment guidelines, the amendments will allow system participants to use the ODG by MCG services they already pay for instead of maintaining a separate, costly subscription to MDGuidelines. The amendments also update DWC's website address to ensure that the rule is current and accurate.

The informal working draft is available on the website at www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/rules/2026rules.html.

Submit written comments on the informal working draft to RuleComments@tdi.texas.gov, or mail or deliver your comments to:

Legal and Communications Services, MC-LS
Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation
P.O. Box 12050
Austin, Texas 78711-2050

The deadline to submit all comments is 5 p.m., Central time, on June 1, 2026.