



San Diego Community College District Workers' Compensation New Hire Pamphlet

WHAT IS WORKERS' COMPENSATION?

If you get hurt on the job, your employer is required by law to pay for workers' compensation benefits. You could get hurt by:

One event at work. Examples: hurting your back in a fall, getting burned by a chemical that splashes on your skin, getting hurt in a car accident while making deliveries.

—or—

Repeated exposures at work. Examples: hurting your wrist from using vibrating tools, losing your hearing because of constant loud noise.

—or—

Workplace crime. Examples: you get hurt in a store robbery, physically attacked by an unhappy customer.

Discrimination is illegal

It is illegal under Labor Code section 132a for your employer to punish or fire you because you:

- File a workers' compensation claim
- Intend to file a workers' compensation claim
- Settle a workers' compensation claim
- Testify or intend to testify for another injured worker.

If it is found that your employer discriminated against you, he or she may be ordered to return you to your job. Your employer may also be made to pay for lost wages, increased workers' compensation benefits, and costs and expenses set by state law.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- **Medical care:** Paid for by your employer to help you recover from an injury or illness caused by work. Doctor visits, hospital services, physical therapy, lab tests and x-rays are some of the medical services that may be provided. These services should be necessary to treat your injury. There are limits on some services such as physical and occupational therapy and chiropractic care.
- **Temporary disability benefits:** Payments if you lose wages because your injury prevents you from doing your usual job while recovering. The amount you may get is up to two-thirds of your wages. There are minimum and maximum payment limits set by state law. For most injuries, payments may not exceed 104 weeks within five years from your date of injury. Temporary disability (TD) stops when you return to work, or when the doctor releases you for work, or says your injury has improved as much as it's going to.
- **Permanent disability benefits:** Payments if you don't recover completely. You will be paid every two weeks if you are eligible. There are minimum and maximum weekly payment rates established by state law. The amount of payment is based on:
 - Your doctor's medical reports
 - Your age
 - Your occupation

- **Supplemental job displacement benefits:** This is a voucher for up to \$6,000 that you can use for retraining or skill enhancement at an approved school, books, tools, licenses or certification fees, or other resources to help you find a new job. You are eligible for this voucher if:
 - You have a permanent disability
 - Your employer does not offer regular, modified, or alternative work, within 60 days after the claims administrator receives a doctor’s report saying you have made a maximum medical recovery.
- **Death benefits:** Payments to your spouse, children or other dependents if you die from a job injury or illness. The amount of payment is based on the number of dependents. The benefit is paid every two weeks at a rate of at least \$224 per week. In addition, workers’ compensation provides a burial allowance.

OTHER BENEFITS

You may file a claim with the Employment Development Department (EDD) to get state disability benefits when workers’ compensation benefits are delayed, denied, or have ended (only certain employees are eligible). There are time restrictions so for more information contact the local office of EDD or go to their web site www.edd.ca.gov.

If your injury results in a permanent disability (PD) and the state determines that your PD benefit is disproportionately low compared to your earning loss, you may qualify for additional money from the Department of Industrial Relation’s special earnings loss supplement program also known as the return to work program. If you have questions or think you qualify, contact the Information & Assistance Unit by going to www.dwc.ca.gov and looking under “Workers’ Compensation programs and units” for the “Information & Assistance Unit” link or visit the DIR web site at www.dir.ca.gov.

Workers’ compensation fraud is a crime

Any person who makes or causes to be made any knowingly false statement in order to obtain or deny workers’ compensation benefits or payments is guilty of a felony. If convicted, the person will have to pay fines up to \$150,000 and/or serve up to five years in jail.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE AN INJURY?

Report your injury to your employer

Tell your supervisor right away no matter how slight the injury may be. Don’t delay – there are time limits. You could lose your right to benefits if your employer does not learn of your injury within 30 days. If your injury or illness is one that develops over time, report it as soon as you learn it was caused by your job.

If you cannot report to the employer or don’t hear from the claims administrator after you have reported your injury, contact the claims administrator yourself.

Workers’ compensation insurance company and/or person responsible for handling the claim is:
Corvel Corporation, Inc.
5694 Mission Center Rd., #700
San Diego, CA 92108

Phone: 800-757-7100

Get emergency treatment if needed

If it’s a medical emergency, go to an emergency room right away. Tell the medical provider who treats you that your injury is job related. Your employer may tell you where to go for follow up treatment.

Emergency telephone number: Call 911 for an ambulance, fire department or police. For non-emergency medical care, contact your employer, the workers' compensation claims administrator or go to the nearest **Sharp Rees-Stealy Occupational Medicine** facility.

Fill out DWC 1 claim form and give it to your employer

Your employer must give you a [DWC 1 claim form](#) within one working day after learning about your injury or illness. Complete the employee portion, sign and give it back to your employer. Your employer will then file your claim with the claims administrator. Your employer must authorize treatment within one working day of receiving the DWC 1 claim form.

If the injury is from repeated exposures, you have one year from when you realized your injury was job related to file a claim.

In either case, you may receive up to \$10,000 in employer-paid medical care until your claim is either accepted or denied. The claims administrator has up to 90 days to decide whether to accept or deny your claim. Otherwise your case is presumed payable.

Your employer or the claims administrator will send you "benefit notices" that will advise you of the status of your claim.

MORE ABOUT MEDICAL CARE

What is a Primary Treating Physician (PTP)?

This is the doctor with overall responsibility for treating your injury or illness. He or she may be:

- The doctor you name in writing *before* you get hurt on the job
- A doctor from the medical provider network (MPN)
- The doctor chosen by your employer during the first 30 days of injury if your employer does not have an MPN or
- The doctor you chose after the first 30 days if your employer does not have an MPN.

What is a Medical Provider Network (MPN)?

An MPN is a select group of health care providers who treat injured workers. The San Diego Community College District has an MPN. (For additional information regarding the MPN, please refer to the pamphlet, *Employee MPN Information*.)

If you have not named a doctor before you get hurt and your employer is using an MPN, you will see an MPN doctor. After your first visit, you are free to choose another doctor from the MPN list.

What is Predesignation?

Predesignation is when you name your regular doctor to treat you if you get hurt on the job. The doctor must be a medical doctor (M.D.), doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) or a medical group with an M.D. or D.O. You must name your doctor in writing *before* you get hurt or become ill.

You may predesignate a doctor if you have health care coverage for non-work injuries and illnesses. The doctor must have:

- Treated you
- Maintained your medical history and records before your injury and
- Agreed to treat you for a work-related injury or illness before you get hurt or become ill.

You may use the "predesignation of personal physician" form included with this pamphlet. After you fill in the form, be sure to give it to your employer.

WHAT IF THERE IS A PROBLEM?

If you have a concern, speak up. Talk to your employer or the claims administrator handling your claim and try to solve the problem. If this doesn't work, get help by trying the following:

Contact the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) Information and Assistance (I&A) Unit

All 24 DWC offices throughout the state provide information and assistance on rights, benefits and obligations under California's workers' compensation laws. I&A officers help resolve disputes without formal proceedings. Their goal is to get you full and timely benefits. Their services are free.

To contact the nearest I&A Unit, go to www.dwc.ca.gov and under "Workers' Compensation programs and units", click on "Information & Assistance Unit." At this site you will find fact sheets, guides and information to help you.

The nearest I&A Unit is located at:	7575 Metropolitan Drive, Ste. 202 San Diego, CA 92108-4434 Phone: 619-767-2082
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Consult with an attorney

Most attorneys offer one free consultation. If you decide to hire an attorney, his or her fees may be taken out of some of your benefits. For names of workers' compensation attorneys, call the State Bar of California at (415) 538-2120 or go to their website at www.californiaspecialist.org. You may get a list of attorneys from your local I&A Unit or look in the yellow pages.

Warning

Your employer may not pay workers' compensation benefits if you get hurt in a voluntary off-duty recreational, social or athletic activity that is not part of your work-related duties.

Additional rights

You may also have other rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA). For additional information, contact FEHA at (800) 884-1684 or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) at (800) 669-4000.

Additional information may be found on Risk Management's website: <http://hr.sdccd.edu/risk/workcomp.cfm>

The information contained in this pamphlet conforms to the informational requirements found in Labor Code sections 3551 and 3553 and California Code of Regulation, Title 8, sections 9880 and 9883. This document is approved by the Division of Workers' Compensation administrative director.



Workers' Compensation: Pre-Designation of Personal Physician

You may use this form to notify your employer if you wish to have your personal physician (M.D or D.O) treat you for a work-related injury or illness and the below requirements are met.

In the event you sustain an injury or illness related to your employment, you may be treated by your personal physician (M.D.) or a doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) if you notify your employer, in writing, **PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE INJURY OR ILLNESS**. Per Labor Code 4600, to qualify as your pre-designated, personal physician, the physician must agree, in writing, to treat you for a work-related injury, must have previously directed your medical care and must retain your medical history and records. Your pre-designated physician must be a family practitioner, general practitioner, board certified or board eligible internist, obstetrician-gynecologist, pediatrician or a multi-specialty medical group, whose practice is predominantly for non-occupational injuries or illnesses.

Employees are reminded to notify their supervisor as soon as possible after an injury occurs.

Dept. Name: _____ Dept. Phone #: _____
Name of Physician*: _____
Physician Address: _____
 M.D., D.O., or Medical group? Physician Phone Number: _____

*This physician is my personal primary care physician who has previously directed my medical care and retains my medical history and records.

Employee Signature: _____ Date: _____

A Personal Physician must be willing to be pre-designated and treat you for a workers' compensation injury. The remainder of this form is to be completed by your personal physician and returned to Risk Management.

PERSONAL PHYSICIAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Personal Physician Name: _____

The physician is not required to sign this form, however, if the physician or designated employee of the physician or medical group does not sign, other documentation of the physician's agreement to be pre-designated will be required pursuant to Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9780.1(a)(3).

- I agree to treat the above named employee in the event of an industrial accident or injury.** I agree to adhere to the Administrative Director's Rules and Regulations, Section 9785, regarding the duties of the employee-designated physician.
- I do not agree to treat the above employee in the event of an industrial accident or injury.**
- I do not qualify as the employees' personal physician.** I am not an M.D. or D.O. or do not meet the criteria outlined above.

Physician Signature

Date