

Physician Panel Requirements

“An Employer’s Necessity”

The PA Workers' Compensation Act gives employers the right to establish a list of designated health care providers. When the list is properly posted, injured workers must seek treatment for the work injury or illness with one of the designated providers for 90 days from the date of the first visit. There are some specific guidelines provided in the rules and regulations for these lists:

- The employer must provide a clearly written notice to employee of the employee's rights and duties.
- The notice must be signed by the employee at the time of hire, whenever changes are made in the list and at the time of injury.
- The list must contain at least six providers; three of the six providers must be physicians.
- Providers as defined in the Act are more than just physicians.
- Each provider's name, address, telephone number and specialty must be included on the list.
- If a particular specialty is not on the list and the specialty care is reasonable and necessary for treatment of the work injury, the employee will be allowed to treat with a health care provider of his or her choosing. *Martin v. WCAB (Emmaus Bakery)*, 652 A.2d 1301 (Pa. 1995)
- The employer may not direct the employee to any specific provider on the list.
- The employee may switch from one designated provider to another designated provider.
- Listed providers must be geographically accessible.
- Listed providers must contain specialties appropriate for the anticipated work-related medical problems of the employee.
- If employer's list of designated providers fails to comport with the Act and the regulations, the employee has the right to treat with a provider of his or her choice.

Further details on the list of designated providers and its correct use are contained in Subchapter D, Sections 127.751 through 127.755 of the rules and regulations found on page 196 of the Workers' Compensation Act as revised and reprinted 1999. The Act is available on this [Website](#). AND, Copies of the Act are available for purchase from the State Bookstore of PA, Commonwealth Keystone Building, Plaza Level, 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120, or call 717-787-5109.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INFORMATION

(1) The workers' compensation law provides wage loss and medical benefits to employees who cannot work, or who need medical care, because of a work-related injury.

(2) Benefits are required to be paid by your employer when self-insured, or through insurance provided by your employer. Your employer is required to post the name of the company responsible for paying workers' compensation benefits at its primary place of business and at its sites of employment in a prominent and easily accessible place, including, without limitation, areas used for the treatment of injured employees or for the administration of first aid.

(3) You should report immediately any injury or work-related illness to your employer.

(4) Your benefits could be delayed or denied if you do not notify your employer immediately.

(5) If your claim is denied by your employer, you have the right to request a hearing before a workers' compensation judge.

(6) The Bureau of Workers' Compensation cannot provide legal advice. However, you may contact the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for additional general information at: Bureau of Workers' Compensation, 1171 South Cameron Street, Room 103, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17104-2501; telephone number within Pennsylvania (800) 482-2383; telephone number outside of this Commonwealth (717) 772-4447; TTY (800) 362-4228 (for hearing and speech impaired only); www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: workers comp.