



December 16, 2004

All DGS Employees

PRE-DESIGNATION OF A PERSONAL PHYSICIAN FOR INDUSTRIAL INJURIES

This notification is to inform you of a recent change in legislation, Senate Bill 899 (SB 899), which affects your ability to pre-designate a personal physician for the treatment of work-related injuries.

Prior to SB 899, you were required to notify your employer in writing prior to a work-related injury that you were pre-designating your treating physician. Due to the change in the law, the notice must also include a written statement with the physician's signature agreeing to the pre-designation. To qualify for pre-designation, your employer must provide non-occupational group health coverage in a health care service plan (HMO/PPO), and the physician you pre-designate must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Be your regular physician and surgeon
- Be your primary care physician
- Be licensed per Business & Professions Code
- Have previously provided treatment to you
- Retain your medical records and history
- Agree to be the pre-designated physician

If you obtain non-occupational group health care coverage through a spouse employed in private industry, you will not be eligible to pre-designate your personal physician because your employer does not provide the health plan. However, if the State of California employs both you and your spouse and you obtain your non-occupational group health coverage from your spouse, you will be eligible to pre-designate.

The new law calls for a revised pre-designation form. The enclosed State Compensation Insurance Fund (SCIF) brochure (Form 13545) contains the new provisions of the law, and includes a revised pre-designation form. We recommend that all employees read this brochure to be aware of the change in pre-designation. If you chose to pre-designate your personal physician, please return the completed pre-designation form to your personnel liaison.

Please contact the Return-to-Work Unit, Office of Risk and Insurance Management at (916) 376-5300, if you have further questions regarding the change in pre-designation requirements.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Ron Joseph
Director

Enclosure