

Workers' Compensation Claim Form (DWC 1) & Notice of Potential Eligibility  
Formulario de Reclamo de Compensación de Trabajadores (DWC 1) y Notificación de Posible Elegibilidad

If you are injured or become ill, either physically or mentally, because of your job or the work you do, you may be eligible for workers' compensation benefits. If you are injured or become ill, either physically or mentally, because of your job or the work you do, you may be eligible for workers' compensation benefits.

- x Si su empleador está utilizando un grupo de proveedores médicos (Medical Provider Network- MPN) o una Organización de Cuidado Médico (Health Care Organization- HCO) en la mayoría de los casos, usted será tratado en la MPN o HCO a menos que usted hizo una designación previa de su médico personal o grupo médico. Una MPN es un grupo de proveedores de asistencia médica quien da tratamiento a los trabajadores lesionados en el trabajo. Usted debe recibir información de su empleador si su tratamiento es cubierto por una HCO o una MPN.

your employer or the claims administrator has not created or selected an MPN.

Disclosure of Medical Records: After you make a claim for workers' compensation benefits, your medical records will not have the same level of privacy that you usually expect. If you don't agree to voluntarily release medical records, a workers' compensation judge will decide what records will be released. If you request privacy, the judge may "seal" (keep private) certain medical records.

Problems with Medical Care and Medical Reports At some point during your claim, you might disagree with your PTP about what treatment is necessary. If this happens, you can switch to other doctors as described above. If you cannot reach agreement with another doctor, steps to take depend on whether you are receiving care in an MPN, HCO, or network. For more information, see "Learn More About Workers' Compensation," below.

If the claims administrator denies treatment recommended by your PTP, you may request independent medical review (IMR) using the request form included with the claims administrator's written decision to deny treatment. The IMR process is similar to the group health IMR process and takes approximately 40 (or fewer) days to arrive at a determination so that appropriate treatment can be given. Your attorney or your physician may assist you in the IMR process. IMR is not available to resolve disputes over matters other than the medical necessity of a particular treatment requested by your physician.

If you disagree with your PTP on matters other than treatment, such as the cause of your injury or how severe the injury is, you can switch to other doctors as described above. If you cannot reach agreement with another doctor, notify the claims administrator in writing as soon as

spouse and other relatives or householders who were financially dependent on the deceased worker.

It is illegal for your employer to punish or fire you for having a job injury or illness, for filing a claim, or testifying in another person's workers' compensation case (Labor Code 132a). If proven, you may receive lower wages, job reinstatement, increased benefits, and costs and expenses up to limits set by the state.

Resolving Problems or Disputes You have the right to disagree with decisions affecting your claim. If you have a disagreement, contact your employer or claims administrator first to see if you can resolve it. If you are not receiving benefits, you may be able to get State Disability Insurance (SDI) or unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Call the state Employment Development Department at (800) 480-3287 or (866) 333-4606, or go to their website at [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov).

You Can Contact an Information & Assistance (I&A) Officer: State I&A officers answer questions, help injured workers, provide forms, and help resolve problems. Some I&A officers hold workshops for injured workers. To obtain important information about the workers' compensation claims process and your rights and obligations, go to [www.dwc.ca.gov](http://www.dwc.ca.gov) or contact an I&A officer of the state Division of Workers' Compensation. You can also hear recorded information and a list of local I&A offices by calling (800) 736-7401.

You can consult with an attorney Most attorneys offer one free consultation. If you decide to hire an attorney, his or her fee will 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](http://www.californiaspecialist.org).

WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIM FORM (DWC 1)

PETITION DEL EMPLEADO PARA DE COMPENSACIÓN DEL  
TRABAJADOR (DWC 1)

Employee: Complete the "Employee" section and give the form to your employer. Keep a copy and mark "Employee's Temporary Receipt" until you receive the signed and dated copy from your employer. You may call the Division of Workers' Compensation and hear recorded information at (800) 736-7401. An explanation of workers' compensation benefits is included in the Notice of Potential Eligibility, which is the cover sheet of this form. Detach and save this notice for future reference.

You should also have received a pamphlet from your employer describing workers' compensation benefits and the procedures to obtain them. You may receive written notices from your employer or its claims administrator about your claim. If your claims administrator offers to send you notices electronically, and you agree to receive these notices only by email, please provide your email address below and check the appropriate box. If you later decide you want to receive the notices by mail, you must inform your