



Medical Provider Panel Information for Employers

Designated Medical Providers for Treating Workplace Injuries

The right physician can have a substantial impact on the successful recovery of an injured employee and on the cost of a workers compensation claim. High quality, cost effective care for your injured employees is our top priority. Georgia laws specify that employers can meet the requirement to provide medical care to injured employees by adopting medical provider panels. Using panels helps your employees receive medical care from highly qualified physicians and other skilled medical providers. Our panels consist of providers who are experienced in treating workplace injuries, are familiar with the workers compensation system, and are strong advocates of an early, safe return to work. Please contact your Account Manager to discuss how we can work together to ensure injured workers receive appropriate and timely care.

Preserve Your Rights

We can only require that injured workers treat with panel providers if these steps are followed:

- **Post Workers Compensation Notices:** Employers are required to post mandatory notices regarding employees' workers compensation rights. We have provided those notices to you along with instructions on where to post them.
- **Medical Provider Panel:** The law instructs employers to post their panel in prominent and readily accessible places at all business locations and work sites. This includes places used for treatment and first aid and any employee informational bulletin boards. We have provided the state panel forms with instructions for proper use. Make sure that all employees are notified of the panel and their right to select a provider from the panel for the treatment of a work-related injury.

Requirements for Valid Panels:

- WC-P1 – Panel of Physicians –
 - At least 6 providers must be listed; include the names, addresses, and phone numbers
 - Must include: one orthopedic surgeon, a minority physician, and no more than 2 industrial clinics
 - Providers listed should be within 50 miles of the job site
- WC-P3 – WC/MCO Panel –
 - Employer or insurer contracts with a board-certified Managed Care Organization (MCO)
 - Give notice to all employees to explain how program works and provide instructions to access services
 - Provide information cards that explains how the program works and a toll-free, 24-hour telephone number to call in the event of an on-the-job injury
- **Offer Immediate Medical Care:** Upon learning of a work injury, an employer should offer immediate medical treatment to the injured employee. Let us know about any injury right away so we can help arrange for appropriate medical care. The failure to offer medical care may constitute a refusal or denial of care which may result in an employee being able to treat with providers outside the panel listing.
- **Panel Acknowledgement and Physician Selection:** Upon knowledge of an employee's work injury or occupational illness, have the injured worker complete this form to confirm their knowledge of the provider panel and to designate the medical provider they have chosen to treat their injury or illness. Send a copy of the posted panel and the completed panel acknowledgment when the claim is reported to Omaha National. This documentation is needed to enforce panel use.