

# Travel Reimbursement

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## Information for Injured Employees from the Division of Workers' Compensation

### Request for Travel Reimbursement

[Rule 134.110]

If you have to travel more than 30 miles one way from your residence or workplace in order to receive necessary medical care for your work-related injury or illness, you may request reimbursement for your travel expense from your employer's workers' compensation insurance carrier. To receive reimbursement, you must submit a *Request for Travel Reimbursement* (DWC Form-48) within one (1) year of the date you incur the travel expenses.

The insurance carrier may deny your request for travel expense reimbursement if you could have received the same medical treatment within 30 miles of your residence or workplace (place of departure).



Reimbursement is based on the travel rate for state employees on the date the travel occurred,

using the shortest reasonable route, either from your home or workplace, depending on the place of departure. When your travel expenses reasonably include food and/or lodging, the carrier shall reimburse for the actual expenses not to exceed the current rate for state employees.

To obtain the current state rate reimbursement amounts, go to: <http://www.window.state.tx.us> and click on "Mileage Guide" on the left side of the home page.

The insurance carrier will pay you, or notify you of the reasons for any reduction or denial of reimbursement in writing. If you disagree with the insurance carrier's reduction or denial, you may contact the Division at 1-800-252-7031 to request a benefit review conference to resolve the dispute.

This publication is a summary and is presented for informational purposes only. It is not a substitute for the statute and Division rules. For questions about Division rules, please call Customer Assistance at 1-800-252-7031. CS05-004D(9-07)

### Medical Benefits

[Section 409.005(j-k), Rule 129.5]

Medical benefits pay for necessary medical care to treat your work-related injury or illness. Your employer's workers' compensation insurance company pays medical benefits directly to the health care provider who provides your medical treatment.

Medical benefits are paid only for the treatment of your work-related injury or illness. The insurance carrier does not pay for the treatment of other injuries or illnesses, even if the treatment was provided at the same time you received treatment for your work-related injury. Your health care provider may not bill you for treatment related to a work-related injury or illness, but may bill you for treatment of other injuries or illnesses.

### When Medical Benefits Begin and End

You may receive necessary medical treatment immediately after a work-related injury or illness. You have the right to an initial choice of doctor, with the exception of doctors previously removed or denied admission to the Division's former Approved Doctors List. A list of doctors not providing workers' compensation health care can be found on the TDI website at <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/hcprovider/doctordata.html>. If you need assistance locating a doctor, you may contact the Division at 1-800-252-7031.

After you have chosen a doctor, any request to change doctors must be approved by the local Division office handling your claim. If you or your doctor move or the doctor becomes unavailable to provide medical treatment, you will be allowed to choose another doctor. You will need to complete the *Employee's Request to Change Treating Doctors* (DWC Form-53) and file it with the local Division office. We will notify all parties that your treatment is going

For further assistance, call

1-800-252-7031

or visit

[www.tdi.state.tx.us](http://www.tdi.state.tx.us)

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to be managed by a different doctor. All medical treatment for a work-related injury or illness must be approved by your treating doctor except in an emergency. If your work-related injury or illness poses a risk to your life and your doctor is unavailable to treat you, you may seek the help of another doctor. Your treating doctor may refer you for medical treatment to another doctor, without permission or approval from the Division or the insurance carrier.

A doctor may not bill you for treatment of a work-related injury or illness. The doctor may send you a copy of the bill marked as “information only” upon your request.

The doctor cannot try to contact you for payment using any of the following methods:

- send you a bill when you did not request an information copy;
- have a collection agency send you a letter or contact you;
- file a lawsuit in court against you; or
- collect, charge or require you to pay a co-payment when filing a claim with private health insurance.

A doctor may only request payment from you when the work-related injury or illness has been reviewed through dispute resolution hearings before the Division or the Courts and has been finally determined to be an injury or illness that is not work-related.

It is beneficial to all parties involved that you return to work as quickly as possible. Injured employees that continue to work as part of their recovery/treatment plan, in medically appropriate productive work, heal faster, and may retain their job skills.