

Texas Department of Insurance
Division of Workers' Compensation

FastFacts

For Designated Doctors

Distributing Appointment Requests

This *FastFacts* details the factors that influence the manner in which Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) staff distribute appointment requests among designated doctors.

A variety of factors influence whether an individual designated doctor may or may not be offered a particular appointment. (See *FastFacts: Doctor Selection Criteria for the Designated Doctor Examination*). In addition to the selection criteria, the following factors, outside the control of TDI-DWC, also impact the management of requests for examinations:

- the timing, volume, location, and nature of the requests for a designated doctor exam; and,
- the statutory deadlines that apply to the setting and attendance of designated doctor appointments.

As a result, the number or location of appointments for a designated doctor may be affected by these variables and TDI-DWC cannot guarantee specific locations or numbers of appointments. TDI-DWC may offer up to five appointments to each designated doctor, if there is sufficient volume of requests in a particular county. TDI-DWC cannot ensure that any designated doctor will receive five appointments for a specific period of time.

Designated doctors are expected to find appropriate professional facilities to conduct the examinations, and they are required to allocate sufficient time with the injured employee to address all relevant issues.

For detailed historical information about appointment volume and designated doctor assignments by county, TDI-DWC has created an on-line query tool. This tool can be found at <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/hcprovider/doctordata.html>

Relevant Statutes and Rules

Texas Workers' Compensation Act:
§408.0041 Designated Doctor Examination
§408.1225, Designated Doctor

TDI-DWC Rules:
§126.7, Designated Doctor Examinations: Requests and General Procedures
§180.21, Division Designated Doctor List

Other Related FastFacts for Designated Doctors

Doctor Selection Criteria
Accepting Appointments, Refusals, Cancellations, Rescheduling, and Redesignations