

Travel Reimbursement

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Information for Injured Employees from the Division of Workers' Compensation

Request for Travel Reimbursement

[Tex. Admin. Code §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, or to attend a designated doctor examination or required medical examination, you may request reimbursement for your travel expense from your employer's workers' compensation insurance carrier. To request 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 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 Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation

(TDI-DWC) at 1-800-252-7031 to request a benefit review conference to resolve the dispute.

If your request for reimbursement is related to medical treatment for your work-related injury or illness, the insurance carrier may deny your request 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 insurance 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.

This publication is a summary and is presented for informational purposes only. It is not a substitute for the statute and TDI-DWC rules. For questions about TDI-DWC rules, please call Customer Assistance at 1-800-252-7031. CS05-004F(12-08)

What is a Designated Doctor?

[Tex. Labor Code §§ 401.011(15), 408.0041 and 408.151; 28 Tex. Admin. Code §126.7 and §180.21]

A designated doctor is a doctor selected by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) to make a recommendation about your medical condition or to resolve a dispute about your work-related injury or occupational illness. You, your representative, the insurance carrier or the TDI-DWC can request an examination by a designated doctor.

What is a Required Medical Examination (RME)?

[Tex. Labor Code §§ 408.004, 408.0041 and 408.151; 28 Tex. Admin. Code §§126.5, 126.6 and 130.1]

A Required Medical Examination (RME) is a medical examination by a doctor selected by the insurance carrier to resolve questions about your claim. An RME before a designated doctor examination can address and resolve any issue about the appropriateness of health care you received for your work-related injury or occupational illness. After a designated doctor examination, an RME can address and resolve any issues about:

- the impairment caused by the compensable (work-related) injury or illness;
- the attainment of maximum medical improvement (MMI);
- the extent of the injured employee's compensable injury or illness;
- whether the injured employee's disability is a direct result of the work-related injury or illness;
- the ability of the employee to return to work (RTW); or
- other similar issues related to the dispute.

For more information on Travel Reimbursement see the following fact sheets:

- Designated Doctor
- Required Medical Examination

For further assistance, call

1-800-252-7031

or visit

www.tdi.state.tx.us