



Medical Provider Network | COHE Expansion

Workers' Compensation REFORMS

The network will launch in January 2013

How the network will work

The Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) is establishing a medical provider network that will give workers in all parts of the state access to network providers that meet certain minimum credentialing standards.

- In 2012, watch for an invitation from L&I asking you to join the network. (Some providers may be enrolled by their clinics or other organizations.)
- L&I's network of health-care providers will serve injured workers covered by L&I as well as those of self-insured businesses.
- Workers will have their choice of a provider in the network for ongoing care.
- Non-network providers will be able to treat injured workers only for an initial office or emergency room visit.
- L&I will help injured workers who need to transition their care to a network provider.
- Later in 2013, L&I will make incentives available to encourage providers to use occupational-health best practices.

Network standards and who they will affect

- The proposed standards for the network are now available for public comment. (For information on how to comment, see the side-bar on the back page.)
- The proposed standards are modeled on those used by most health plans. To develop the standards, L&I worked closely with a special advisory group made up of provider, worker, and employer representatives.
- The first phase of network standards applies only to the following provider types: physicians, chiropractors, naturopathic physicians, doctors of podiatry, advanced registered nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dentists, and optometrists. *(Continued on reverse)*



L&I is establishing a statewide network of health-care providers and expanding the Centers of Occupational Health and Education (COHEs) as directed by Substitute Senate Bill 5801. These historic changes will reduce disability and provide higher quality medical care for injured workers.

- L&I will phase in standards for other provider types. Until they are invited to join the network, other provider types can continue to treat injured workers without joining.
- Providers who treat injured workers outside of Washington will not be required to join the network at this time.

L&I will broaden access to Centers of Occupational Health and Education

COHEs are health-care delivery organizations, such as clinics and hospitals, which help providers coordinate care and use occupational-health best practices to treat injured workers. Research has shown that COHEs help injured workers return to work sooner and reduce disability and associated claim costs.

Currently, there are four COHEs in Washington (Everett, Renton, Seattle, and Spokane) that provide support to more than 1,500 health-care providers and 27,000 injured workers each year. By July 2013, L&I will expand COHEs to at least six sites – watch for news about our recruitment for new COHE sponsors.

Find out what's going on and how it will affect you

Join the L&I Medical Provider News e-mail list

Our listserv is the best way to receive the latest information on:

- Our provider network (enrollment will begin in early 2012).
- How to participate in a Center for Occupational Health and Education (now recruiting for 2013 expansion).
- Billing workshops and continuing education opportunities.
- Changes to rules, policies, or fee schedules.

You can sign up for the listserv at an L&I conference or training event, or by going online to www.Lni.wa.gov and entering "Medical Provider News" in the search box.

For detailed information, see the L&I website

www.ProviderNetwork.Lni.wa.gov

Questions or comments?

Email us at PublicAffairs@Lni.wa.gov.

How to comment on proposed rules for the provider network

- Attend one of the public meetings:

Seattle, Dec. 8, 10 a.m.
The Conference Center, Port of Seattle, SeaTac Airport
17801 International Blvd, Rm. 6012M

Tumwater, Dec. 12, 5:30 p.m.
L&I Headquarters, Room S118
7273 Linderson Way, Tumwater

Spokane, Dec. 16, 10 a.m.
CenterPlace Event Center, Auditorium
2426 N. Discovery Place, Spokane Valley

- Submit written comments on the proposed rules for the network. Comments will be accepted until 5 p.m., December 16. You can fax, email, mail or hand-deliver your comments to Jami Lifka, Medical Program Specialist:

Fax: 360-902-6315

Email: Jami.Lifka@Lni.wa.gov

Mail:

Department of Labor & Industries
Office of the Medical Director
PO Box 44321
Olympia, WA 98504-4321

Street address:

Labor & Industries
Office of the Medical Director
7273 Linderson Way SW
Tumwater, WA 98501