

Pinnacol Improves Designated Provider List Notification Process

The Employee Choice Physician law went into effect in January 2008. This law requires Colorado employers to designate two medical providers to treat employees injured on the job, and it requires employers to provide a written designated provider list to injured employees **within seven business days** following the date that the employer is first notified of the injury. The designated provider list must include the names and contact information of the designated providers, the name and contact information of the employer's representative for workers' compensation, and the name and contact information of the workers' compensation carrier responsible for the claim.

If the employer fails to provide the designated provider list within seven business days following the date on which the employer is first notified of the injury, the injured employee is allowed to select the treating physician, which is likely to increase the cost of the claim. At Pinnacol, we are continuing to enhance our claim filing system to remind our policyholders of this requirement, and we are making the process of generating the designated medical provider list easier.

When a Pinnacol policyholder reports an injury through Pinnacol's Web site (www.pinnacol.com), a reminder to generate and mail or hand-deliver the Designated Provider List Notification letter within seven days displays on the "First Report of Injury" online form. When a policyholder calls Pinnacol to report an injury, we remind the policyholder of the designated provider requirement. We can also e-mail instructions and the required Designated Provider List Notification Letter to the policyholder to hand-deliver or mail to the injured employee.

If you have questions regarding the designated provider list notification process, please contact your Pinnacol marketing manager.

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