



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

Office of the Medical Director

Dear colleague:

Last year, Washington's legislature passed historic reforms to our workers' compensation system, including the creation of a new provider network to treat those who are injured on the job. I am inviting you to enroll in our new network, which will begin on January 1, 2013.

Like many of you, I have devoted much of my career to preventing the unnecessary occurrence of long-term occupational disability. I'll be the first to acknowledge that this is not always easy, but it is nonetheless critical. Our care for patients with occupational injuries can help restore lives, stabilize families and help keep Washington a competitive place to do business.

We want every great health-care provider in the state to be part of our network. Throughout 2012, we will be reaching out to current providers who treat patients of the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I). L&I will manage the network, which will serve all workers covered by L&I and by self-insured businesses. It is an open network — we will accept all qualified providers who meet network requirements. Your patients are counting on your participation. I urge you to sign up, and please encourage your colleagues to do likewise.

Over the last 10 years, L&I has made great strides in becoming a progressive health payer. We are on the leading edge with such innovations as the Centers of Occupational Health and Education (COHE) where we offer incentives for performing occupational-health best practices. Our bill payment speed is excellent and we offer competitive reimbursement rates, with additional payment for some of the paperwork that is unique to workers' compensation health care. We have also added Provider Account Representatives to help you and your staff work through complex issues. Finally, we're committed to ongoing efforts to reduce administrative hassles.

We're making enrollment in the new network as easy as possible. The approval standards are no different than what you've come to expect from other typical credentialing organizations. If you are already credentialed by another health-care organization, the enrollment process will be even easier.

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All current providers need to apply to participate in the network. Even though you may have been an L&I provider for years, we have limited information about you — not enough to add you to the network.

The enclosed flier has information that staff who handle your credentialing requests need to get started. Please forward it to them. Early application is encouraged, so we can have the new network in place by January 1, 2013. At that time, only providers credentialed in the new network will be able to see injured workers beyond the initial office or emergency-room visit.

Thank you for treating injured workers and supporting our efforts to build a comprehensive, high-quality medical network.

Best regards,

Gary Franklin, MD
Medical Director
Department of Labor & Industries