

How Do I Find a Doctor to Treat My Workers' Compensation Injury or Illness?



Finding a doctor

If your employer provides workers' compensation medical care through a certified workers' compensation health care network (network), you must select a treating doctor from the network's approved provider list. The network's insurance company is required to provide your employer with a contact list of participating treating doctors. Ask your employer for the list so that you can select a treating doctor. The treating doctor will supervise your treatment and be your liaison with any other health care providers in the network.

If your employer does not provide care through a network, there are several ways to find a doctor to treat your injury or illness.

1. Talk to your primary care doctor and ask if they treat workers' compensation patients.

Your family doctor may be able to treat you. If not, ask your doctor to help you find a doctor to treat your injury. Ask your doctors' office staff, then family and friends about doctors who treat workers' compensation patients.

2. Use your local telephone directory

Many doctors list workers' compensation services in their advertisements. Not all doctors treat workers' compensation injuries. When calling a doctor for an appointment, ask whether the doctor accepts workers' compensation patients and be sure to ask if the doctor is accepting new workers' compensation patients.

3. Additional Information

- Only doctors licensed to practice in Texas may treat workers' compensation injuries and illnesses. However, if you are receiving care in another state, the doctor must be licensed in that state.
- A list of doctors who are not allowed to treat workers' compensation patients in Texas can be found on the Texas Department of Insurance website at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/hcprovider/status.html>.

Changing your doctor

In some cases you may be able to change your treating doctor.

If your employer provides care through a network, and you are not satisfied with your treating doctor, you may select an alternate doctor from the network's list of treating doctors. You must notify the network and the network may not deny your request. However, if you are not satisfied with the alternate doctor, you may be required to obtain network approval for any subsequent change of treating doctor.

If you are not covered by a network, the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) must first approve your request to change treating doctor. To request a change of treating doctor, use *DWC Form-053, Employee's Request to Change Treating Doctor*. You may also contact your local DWC field office listed below.

You and your doctor

Get the following information from your employer and give it to your doctor:

- Employer's name, telephone number and address where you work;
- Name of your employer's workers' compensation insurance carrier and policy number; and
- Name and telephone number of the insurance adjuster handling your claim.

Field Office Locations

Abilene	Dallas	Houston (West)	San Angelo
Amarillo	Denton	Laredo	San Antonio
Austin	El Paso	Lubbock	Tyler
Beaumont	Fort Worth	Lufkin	Waco
Corpus Christi	Houston (East)	Midland	Weslaco

(800) 252-7031

<http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/employee/index.html>



Division of Workers' Compensation

Texas Department of Insurance

HCP08-001D (03-15)