



**Division of Workers'
Compensation**

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To: Texas Workers' Compensation System Participants

From: Kara Mace, General Counsel

Date: [July 15, 2026](#)

Subject: Proposed amendments to the return-to-work guidelines rule

The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) is accepting public comments on a proposal to amend 28 Texas Administrative Code Section [137.10](#), concerning return-to-work guidelines. The amendments are necessary to instruct insurance carriers, health care providers, and employers to use the disability duration values in the current edition of the ODG by MCG, published by MCG Health (ODG by MCG), instead of those in the MDGuidelines (formerly known as Medical Disability Advisor), as guidelines for the evaluation of expected or average return-to-work timeframes.

To fulfill their role in the Texas workers' compensation system, designated doctors must subscribe to the adopted treatment and return-to-work guidelines, which includes purchasing access to them. MDGuidelines will change its pricing model and raise its rates substantially starting on October 1, 2026. Since the ODG by MCG treatment guidelines subscription already includes access to return-to-work guidelines, the amendments will allow system participants to use the ODG by MCG services they already subscribe to instead of maintaining a separate, costly subscription to MDGuidelines. The amendments also update DWC's website address to ensure that the rule is current and accurate.

The proposal will be published in the July 31, 2026, issue of the *Texas Register* and available at www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml once published. We will also post a copy of the proposal on the website at www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/rules/2026rules.html. We will hold a public hearing on the proposal at 11 a.m., Central time, on August 24, 2026.

Submit written comments on the proposal to RuleComments@tdi.texas.gov, or mail or deliver your comments to:

Legal and Communications Services, MC-LS
Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation
P.O. Box 12050
Austin, Texas 78711-2050

The deadline to submit all comments is 5 p.m., Central time, on August 31, 2026.