

## N E W S L I N E

Newsline No.: 2015-79

Date: August 26, 2015

### OAL Approves DWC Final Qualified Medical Evaluator Regulations

The Office of Administrative Law (OAL) has approved the Division of Workers' Compensation's (DWC) final version of the Qualified Medical Evaluator (QME) [regulations](#). The effective date of the new regulations is September 1, 2015.

The new QME regulations establish a mandatory [online QME panel request process](#) for claims where the injured worker is represented by an attorney. A party making such a request through the DWC website will immediately be issued a QME panel ready for service on all parties. In addition, the approved regulations simplify the QME Form 105 for unrepresented injured workers, which must still be mailed to the DWC Medical Unit for processing, and make minor changes to the QME appointment form, the reappointment form, and the QME unavailability form.

In order to transition to the online request process, initial represented panel requests postmarked after September 3, 2015 will not be accepted or processed by the Medical Unit. Requests received after that date will not receive any response. Effective October 1, 2015, all represented initial panel requests must be submitted online at the DWC website. Additional information regarding the online panel process, including [FAQs](#) and a training [video](#), is available on the [DWC website](#).

# # #



The [California Department of Industrial Relations](#), established in 1927, protects and improves the health, safety, and economic well-being of over 18 million wage earners, and helps their employers comply with state labor laws. DIR is housed within the [Labor & Workforce Development Agency](#). For general inquiries, contact DIR's Communications Call Center at 1-844-LABOR-DIR (1-844-522-6734) for help in locating the appropriate [division or program](#) in our department.