

As of April 19, 2004, the California Legislature enacted Senate Bill 899. This bill has changed the rules for pre-designating a personal physician to provide treatment for injuries that occur on the job. As a result of this change in the law, all previous pre-designations of personal physicians may no longer be valid.

Under the new law, all pre-designations of a personal physician **MUST** meet **ALL** of the following requirements found in Labor Code Section 4600(d)(1) which indicates:

1. The personal physician you select must be your “regular physician and/or surgeon” who has your medical record file and history. The physician has to have previously directed your medical treatment.
2. Your personal physician must be a medical doctor. You are no longer allowed to select a chiropractor or acupuncturist as your personal physician.
3. The personal physician you select must be a part of the employer’s non-occupation group coverage.
4. The personal physician you select **MUST** agree to being pre-designated by you **AND** comply with workers’ compensation laws and reporting requirements.

If you wish to designate a personal physician to treat you in the event of a worker's compensation injury, please complete the new pre-designation form. This form must be signed by you **AND** your personal physician and returned to your supervisor and/or human resources department **BEFORE** an injury occurs, to be valid.

Please be advised that if you **DO NOT** wish to pre-designate a treating physician, you must seek treatment at the employer’s designated facility for the first 30 days of your claim. In the event you have selected a new personal physician, but wish to seek treatment at the employer’s designated facility, you may do so.

If you wish to designate a personal physician to treat you in the event of a worker's compensation injury, please complete the new pre-designation form and have your pre-designated physician complete and sign the Certification of Physician. You will need to return both forms to your employer.

If you have already predesignated a physician, that designation form will be valid until 1/1/05. At that time, the new designation form will be required with further legislative changes.