APPENDIX B

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## Medical Providers

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## What is a Designated Medical Provider (DMP)?

A Designated Medical Provider is a medical professional or a facility selected by the employer to treat work related injuries. All employers in North Dakota have the option of selecting a DMP.

Employers may choose a single provider, a group of providers, or any combination of provider specialties (including chiropractors).

While employers can choose any combination of providers as their DMP, employers should select providers with the knowledge and training to work with occupational injuries.

This professional knowledge in work-related injuries enhances the implementation of appropriate treatment plans that include using the job as part of the recovery process and positively impacts the healing process.

An employer's selection of a DMP does not apply to emergency treatment, treatment the worker did not know was related to a compensable injury or care directed by WSI or DMP referrals.

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## **Benefits of Designated Medical Provider (DMP)**

By working with a DMP who understands your business and shares in the commitment to the safety, health, and well-being of your employees you can:

- Reduce the length of time off work
- Reduce workers' compensation costs
- Provide employees with opportunities to make informal choices about treatment and transitional work opportunities
- Retain valuable employees through a transitional work program
- Reduce the risk of re-injury
- Reduce work replacement costs

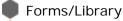
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## Selecting a Designated Medical Provider (DMP)

As an employer, be selective in the process of choosing a DMP. Some areas to consider include:

- Does the provider have experience in working with occupational injuries?
- Is the provider willing to come to your place of business to understand your operations?
- Is the provider open to including using the job as part of the recovery process?
- Is the provider willing to communicate with you on work-related treatment plans in a timely manner (define what the timely expectation would be)?
- Is the provider willing to allow an employer representative to attend an appointment with the injured worker to discuss return-to-work (RTW) options?
- How does the provider measure functional capabilities?

As an employee, you have the right to select a different DMP however this must be completed prior to an injury. If WSI does not agree with your DMP selection, state law allows WSI to decline the request.

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#### What is the Employer's Role?

The employer should:

- Inform the provider, in writing, that they have been selected as their DMP
- Develop an agreement with the DMP
- Have a contact person identified for the DMP
- Inform employees of the DMP selection and their options
- Display the DMP selection in a place where employees can easily see it
- Conduct annual on the DMP selection process
- Develop transitional work duties so the DMP knows transitional work is available
- Have detailed descriptions that can be provided to the DMP at the time of the injury
- Inform WSI of the DMP selected by completing the <u>Designated</u> <u>Medical Provider Selection Form</u>



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#### What is the Designated Medical Provider's Role?

#### The DMP should:

- Acquire knowledge of the employer's business operations and job functions
- Have a contact person identified for the employer
- Provide prompt and appropriate care to injured workers
- Evaluate the injury and develop treatment plans including using the job as part of the recovery process
- Establish functional capabilities
- Provide completed reports promptly. Note: For each medical appointment a <u>Capability Assessment form (C3)</u> or Workability Assessment form should be completed
- Establish and maintain communication with the injured worker, employer, and WSI
- Share in the employer's goal of keeping the injured worker at work, while making sure abilities match job functions
- Maintain responsibility for the direction of medical management including referral to specialists



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## **Medical Providers**

#### **Designated Medical Provider (DMP)**

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#### Forms & Publications

**DMP Brochure** Capability Assessment form (C3) **DMP Selection Form** 

#### What is the worker's Role?

#### The worker should:

- Receive and sign an acknowledgement of information about the employer's DMP selection
- Seek treatment from the selected DMP by the employer unless you previously informed the employer of a different provider before an injury occurs.
  - If a you do not treat with the employer's DMP or the one chosen by you before being injured, it may result in nonpayment of benefits
- Contact WSI if you no longer wish to treat with the DMP.
  - You must treat with the DMP for 30 days before changing providers to avoid nonpayment of benefits.

#### 65-05-28.1. Employer to select preferred provider.

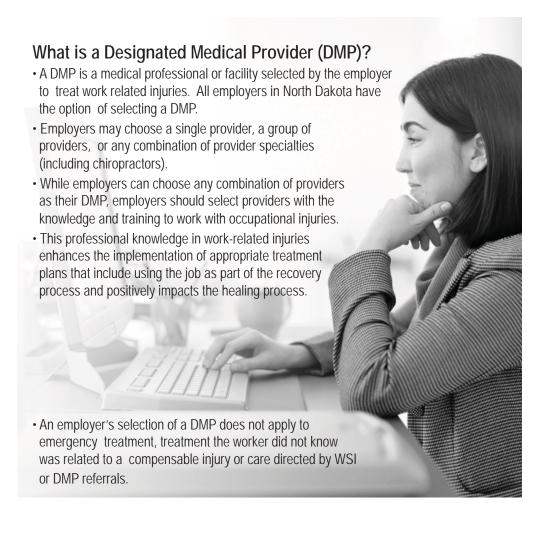
Notwithstanding section 65-05-28, any employer subject to this title may select a preferred provider to render medical treatment to employees who sustain compensable injuries. "Preferred provider" means a designated provider or group of providers of medical services, including consultations or referral by the provider or providers.

#### 65-05-28.2. Preferred provider - Use required - Exceptions - Notice.

- 1. During the first thirty days after a work injury, an employee of an employer who has selected a preferred provider under this section may seek medical treatment only from the preferred provider for the injury. Treatment by a provider other than the preferred provider is not compensable and the organization may not pay for treatment by a provider who is not a preferred provider, unless a referral was made by the preferred provider. A provider who is not a preferred provider may not certify disability or render an opinion about any matter pertaining to the injury, including causation, compensability, impairment, or disability. This section does not apply to emergency care nor to any care the employee reasonably did not know was related to a work injury.
- An employee of an employer who has selected a preferred provider may elect to be treated by a different provider provided the employee makes the election and notifies the employer in writing prior to the occurrence of an injury.
- 3. After thirty days have passed following the injury, the employee may make a written request to the organization to change providers. The employee shall make the request and serve it on the employer and the organization at least thirty days prior to treatment by the provider. The employee shall state the reasons for the request and the employee's choice of provider.
- 4. If the employer objects to the provider selected by the employee under subsection 2 or 3, the employer may file an objection to the change of provider. The employer shall detail in the objection the grounds for the objection and shall serve the objection on the employee and the organization within five days of service of the request. The employee may serve, within five days of service of the employer's objection, a written response on the employer and the organization in support of the request for change of provider. Within fifteen days after receipt of the response or of the expiration of the time for filing the response, the organization shall rule on the request. Failure of the organization to rule constitutes approval of the request. Treatment by the employee's

- chosen provider is not compensable until the organization approves the request. The preferred provider remains the treating provider until the organization approves the employee's request to change providers.
- 5. An employer shall give written notice to its employees when the employer makes an initial selection of a preferred provider or changes the selection of the preferred provider. An employer shall give written notice identifying the selected preferred provider to every employee hired after the selection was made. An employer who has selected a preferred provider shall display notice of the preferred provider in a conspicuous manner at fixed worksites, and wherever feasible at mobile worksites, and in a sufficient number of places to reasonably inform employees of the preferred provider and of the requirements of this section. Failure to give written notice or to properly post notice as required under this subsection invalidates the selection, allowing the employee to make the initial selection of a medical provider.





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- · How does the provider measure functional capabilities?

#### What is the Employer's Role? The employer should:

- Inform the provider, in writing, that they have been selected as their DMP
- Develop an agreement with the DMP
- Have a contact person identified for the DMP
- Inform employees of the DMP selection and their options
- Display the DMP selection in a place where employees easily see it
- Conduct annual training on the DMP selection process
- Develop transitional work duties so the DMP knows transitional work is available
- Have detailed job descriptions provided to the DMP at the time of the injury
- Inform WSI of the DMP selected

## What is the Designated Medical Provider's Role? The DMP should:

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