

<b>COUNTY OF SHASTA</b>		Number
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL</b>		3-125
SECTION:	Risk Management	Workers' Compensation Designated Treating Physician
INITIAL ISSUE DATE:	February 13, 1990	
LATEST REVISION DATE:	April 11, 2023	
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**PURPOSE**

To set forth the designation of a treating physician for job-related injuries or illnesses to comply with California Labor Code Section 4600.

**BACKGROUND**

Under California Labor Code Section 4600, an employer can assume medical control of an employee's on-the-job injury or illness for the first 30 days.

On March 3, 1987, upon direction of the Board of Supervisors, Risk Management assumed medical control of all on-the-job injuries/illnesses for the first 30 days as permissible under Labor Code Section 4600. Pursuant to Board order, all employees have the right to select their treating physician prior to an injury/illness.

The County's designated occupational medical facilities provide care for industrial injuries. They have full knowledge of the Workers' Compensation reporting requirements. They are responsive to the employer of an injured employee. Medically, if the injury/illness requires specialized treatment, they refer the patient for immediate care.

Employees who require treatment for an industrial injury/illness and who have not filed a "Personal Physician Statement" with Risk Management designating their personal physician **prior to an industrial injury/illness** are directed to seek medical care from the closest County designated occupational medical facility listed in the workers' compensation chapter of the County's Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP).

**POLICY**

1. In accordance with California Labor Code §4600, Shasta County assumes medical control by designating physicians to treat injured employees for the initial 30 days following any job-related injury or illness. After 30 days, the employee may choose his or her own treating physician or chiropractor.

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2. Any employee who has on file with the Risk Management Division, **prior to an injury**, a "Personal Physician Statement," as attached, signed by a physician who meets the definition of "personal physician" under California Labor Code §4600 may be treated by only that physician for a job-related injury or illness, unless otherwise approved by Risk Management. If the pre-designated physician is a personal chiropractor, the employee must first seek medical treatment from his/her pre-designated doctor of medicine or osteopathy and then request a change of treating physician to his/her personal chiropractor on file.
3. Should the "personal physician's" trained specialty be inappropriate for the injury or illness incurred, or should the physician be unavailable or refuse to provide treatment, Risk Management will designate a treating physician.
4. Should the employee not wish to be treated by the designated personal physician or be dissatisfied with the physician designated by the County, the employee may apply to Risk Management for a change of physician as permitted by California Labor Code §4601.

### **RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENTS**

Support Services -- Risk Management

### **REFERENCES**

BOS Policy Resolution No. 2023-01--04/11/23 (Amended)  
 Administrative Update--07/13/2012  
 BOS Policy Resolution No. 2008-02--3/4/08 (Amended)  
 BOS Policy Resolution No. 2005-6--8/2/05 (Amended)  
 BOS Policy Resolution No. 2003-3--11/25/03 (Amended)  
 BOS Policy Resolution No. 2001-10--8/14/01 (Amended)  
 BOS Policy Resolution No. 95-4--3/14/95 (Amended)  
 BOS Policy Resolution No. 94-3--5/3/94  
 BOS Policy Resolution No. 92-5--8/18/92  
 Minute Order dated March 3, 1987 (valid)

