

Labor Management Advisory Council

Designated Treating Physician
Plan One Insurers

Montana Self Insurers Association

- The Montana Self Insurers Association represents self-insured Employers in Montana.
- The membership includes single employers and group self-insured programs.
- It is governed by a seven member board of directors.
- Association members provide coverage to more than 95,000 employees state-wide.
- Claims adjusting is handled in-house by some entities and by third party administrators for others.

Designated Treating Physician Member Survey

- None of the association members collect specific data on this issue.
- Therefore, the survey was done by a query of the claims examiners who service the claims.
- Not all members participated, but the survey did include all members with large employee bases.

Designated Treating Physician Member Survey

- Since July 1, 2011, the members surveyed had incurred approximately 15,000 claims.
- Action to change a treating physician was utilized by members surveyed on fewer than 30 of those claims.
- This is less than 0.2% of the incurred claims.

Designated Treating Physician Member Survey

- When asked why the change was made, in the vast majority of cases, it was made to obtain medical treatment specifically directed to the needs of the injured worker.
- An example would involve an injured worker being treated in a family practice or an urgent care clinic that would benefit from seeing a specialist.

Designated Treating Physician Member Survey

- The vast majority of injured workers (99.8%) recover from their injuries treating with their initial treating provider.
- In certain cases, however, they may reach a plateau related to their current treatment and would benefit from seeing a specialist to evaluate other treatment options.

Designated Treating Physician Member Survey

- This analysis of the use of the provision by self insurers suggests its usage is providing the results intended by the legislation.
- While used sparingly, the ability to change the treating physician is a useful tool in providing injured workers with prompt and effective treatment for their injuries

Designated Treating Physician Member Survey

- The members of the Montana Self Insurers Association utilize this provision where appropriate and support its retention in the law.