

ADVISORY NO. 271
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TOPIC: WORK STATUS REPORT FORM

The TWCC has just released its adopted version of the Work Status Report. It is attached to this advisory. An original copy may be obtained from the TWCC at its web site at <http://twcc.state.tx.us>.

The new rules will be effective on December 26, 1999. At that time, this report must be used when physicians are commenting about the return-to-work status of employees. TWCC rules contemplate this will be used by treating doctors and RME doctors.

If you have an RME scheduled after January 1st, you should provide a copy of this form to your RME physician. The physician is obligated to complete the report and file it within seven days. Rule 126.6 (f). Note that treating doctors must complete this same report and provide it to the employee at the time of the examination and within one working day provide the report to us. The RME doctors requirements are less strict.

Note also that the Commission has adopted a new rule regarding Bona Fide Offers of Employment. Rule 129.6. A Work Status Report must be completed before the carrier can rely upon the provisions of this rule. During the transition, it will be important that the treating doctor have a copy of this report where we intend to rely upon it to suspend benefits.