

ADVISORY NO. 310
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TOPIC: EXEMPTION FROM PREAUTHORIZATION AND CONCURRENT REVIEW

The TWCC recently issued instructions for obtaining an exemption from Preauthorization and Concurrent Review for facilities accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for work hardening or work conditioning as TWCC Advisory 2001-11.

The approved facility must submit documentation of current CARF accreditation. The documentation shall include name and address information, a copy of the accreditation document from CARF and the duration of the accreditation status. The exempted facility will be subject to verification and audit by the TWCC.

Exemptions are valid from the date approved until the facility is no longer accredited by CARF, or one year, whichever is less; the exemption period begins January 1, 2002 and ends December 31, 2002.

TWCC Advisory 2001-11

Texas Workers' Compensation Commission Approval for the Exemption from Preauthorization and Concurrent Review for Facilities Accredited for Work Hardening or Work Conditioning Programs by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

The Texas Workers' Compensation Commission (Commission) provides the following instructions for obtaining Commission approval for exemption from Preauthorization and Concurrent Review for facilities accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for work hardening or work conditioning programs, as set forth in Rule 134.600 (h)(9), Preauthorization, Concurrent Review, and Voluntary Certification of Health Care, effective January 1, 2002.

A facility that is accredited by CARF for work hardening or work conditioning programs is eligible for exemption from preauthorization or concurrent review for these programs. To obtain approval for the exemption, the facility must submit documentation of current CARF accreditation for these programs to the Commission's Medical Review Division. This documentation shall include the name and address of the specific accredited facility, a copy of the accreditation document from CARF, and the duration of the accreditation status. Exempted facilities are subject to verification and audit by the Commission. When the Commission approves a facility for exemption, the Commission will notify the facility by letter and add the facility to the Commission's list of exempted facilities posted on the TWCC website, www.twcc.state.tx.us.

If a facility is currently CARF accredited or obtains CARF accreditation for work hardening or work conditioning programs during the first year of this rule, documentation should be submitted at the earliest possible date to the Commission. Exemptions are valid from the date approved by the Commission until the facility is no longer accredited by CARF for work hardening or work conditioning programs, or the Commission exemption expires. The exemption period is for one year only, to begin January 1, 2002 and expire December 31, 2002.

Submit documentation for exemption to:

Texas Workers' Compensation Commission
Attn: Medical Review Division
4000 South IH-35, Southfield Building, MS-43
Austin, Texas 78704-7491

Signed this 5th day of December, 2001

Richard F. Reynolds, Executive Director