

ADVISORY NO. 324
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**TOPIC: NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR PHYSICIANS
PROVIDING WC SERVICES**

TWCC has promulgated new requirements for physicians providing workers' compensation services in response to HB 2600. For the first time, peer review physicians will have to be on the approved doctor list beginning on September 1, 2003. The new requirements are:

All peer review physicians prior to September 1, 2003

Peer review physicians will not be subject to the new rules until September 1, 2003. Until then, you may continue your present policies without regard to whether the physician is or is not licensed in Texas.

Peer review physicians licensed in Texas after September 1, 2003

After September 1, 2003, an out-of-state peer review physician licensed in the state must be listed on the ADL. To be listed on the ADL after September 1, 2003, out-of-state doctors must submit a written request to TWCC as further described in Rule 180.20(b) and must complete level one certification.

Peer review physicians not licensed in Texas after September 1, 2003

After September 1, 2003, physicians not licensed in Texas will only be permitted to perform peer reviews if the doctor is listed on the ADL and level one certified. 180.23(C)(1)(B). To be listed on the ADL the physician must file a written request supported by an affidavit from a doctor who is 1) Texas licensed, 2) on the ADL, 3) level two certified, and 4) who agrees to "direct the doctors reviews." 180.23(g). TWCC will prescribe a form for the affidavit.

TWCC will promulgate training modules sometime this year. These will be available on line for out of state doctors. Level one certification requires completion of the Limited Participation Doctor Training Module, with follow-ups every 2 years. Peer review doctors will not be permitted to "assign impairment ratings". 180.23(i).