

## Updates

- **This morning, the DWC Newsline published an announcement that may be very important to those of you who are involved in the lien process or any other direct interaction with the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board. The ability to show up in person at a Board is extremely limited. If you interact via the EAMS system, it remains the favored method especially during this period of curtailed hours and closures.**
- **To date, the DWC has not formally addressed the questions posed to it regarding how to approach delays or cancellations of scheduled QME or AME evaluations.**
- **However, it is important to understand an important point Governor Newsom emphasized yesterday when announcing that those 65 and over should self-quarantine and bars and nightclubs should close.**

Presuming things do not get worse to the point that Governor Newsom changes the basis for his present statements, please keep the following in mind:

1) He clearly stated that his request for those over 65 years of age to self-quarantine was advisory and voluntary.

2) He also made the point that the businesses he has asked to close such as bars and nightclubs are "non-essential." With respect to restaurant closures, he distinguished them as important points of distribution of an essential service - food. In so doing he made clear that to the degree possible, the distribution of essential services should remain available. Points of distribution for health care include your medical offices.

- For the most part, workers compensation medical-legal evaluations are not in the category of "non-essential" services. Whenever possible and keeping in mind the health and safety of all involved, this essential service can and perhaps should be provided.
- Likewise it is up to those injured workers who may be over 65 - with guidance from their employer/insurer, legal counsel if present and you - to decide if an evaluation should go on as scheduled.
- As such, we trust the Division will take an even handed approach when evaluations are rescheduled or cancelled by an injured worker or evaluator in good faith under the circumstances, but outside the bounds of current regulations that when written did not consider and do not accommodate circumstances as dire as these in which we find ourselves.
- **More than ever before, to the degree possible, these decisions should be a collaborative effort. Communication is key.**

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