

AN ACT

relating to requiring that a doctor who reviews a workers' compensation case be certified in a professional specialty appropriate to the care received by the injured employee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 408, Labor Code, is amended by adding Sections 408.0043 through 408.0046 to read as follows:

Sec. 408.0043. PROFESSIONAL SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN REVIEW. (a) This section applies to a person, other than a chiropractor or a dentist, who performs health care services under this title as:

(1) a doctor performing peer review;

(2) a doctor performing a utilization review of a health care service provided to an injured employee, including a retrospective review;

(3) a doctor performing an independent review of a health care service provided to an injured employee, including a retrospective review;

(4) a designated doctor;

(5) a doctor performing a required medical examination; or

(6) a doctor serving as a member of the medical quality review panel.

1 (b) A person described by Subsection (a) who reviews a
2 specific workers' compensation case must hold a professional
3 certification in a health care specialty appropriate to the type of
4 health care that the injured employee is receiving.

5 Sec. 408.0044. REVIEW OF DENTAL SERVICES. (a) This section
6 applies to a dentist who performs dental services under this title
7 as:

8 (1) a doctor performing peer review of dental
9 services;

10 (2) a doctor performing a utilization review of a
11 dental service provided to an injured employee, including a
12 retrospective review;

13 (3) a doctor performing an independent review of a
14 dental service provided to an injured employee, including a
15 retrospective review; or

16 (4) a doctor performing a required dental examination.

17 (b) A person described by Subsection (a) who reviews a
18 dental service provided in conjunction with a specific workers'
19 compensation case must be licensed to practice dentistry.

20 Sec. 408.0045. REVIEW OF CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES. (a) This
21 section applies to a chiropractor who performs chiropractic
22 services under this title as:

23 (1) a doctor performing peer review of chiropractic
24 services;

25 (2) a doctor performing a utilization review of a
26 chiropractic service provided to an injured employee, including a
27 retrospective review;

1 (3) a doctor performing an independent review of a
2 chiropractic service provided to an injured employee, including a
3 retrospective review;

4 (4) a designated doctor providing chiropractic
5 services;

6 (5) a doctor performing a required medical
7 examination; or

8 (6) a chiropractor serving as a member of the medical
9 quality review panel.

10 (b) A person described by Subsection (a) who reviews a
11 chiropractic service provided in conjunction with a specific
12 workers' compensation case must be licensed to engage in the
13 practice of chiropractic.

14 Sec. 408.0046. RULES. The commissioner may adopt rules as
15 necessary to determine which professional health practitioner
16 specialties are appropriate for treatment of certain compensable
17 injuries. The rules adopted under this section must require an
18 entity requesting a peer review to obtain and provide to the doctor
19 providing peer review services all relevant and updated medical
20 records.

21 SECTION 2. Section 408.004, Labor Code, is amended by
22 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

23 (a-1) A doctor, other than a chiropractor, who performs a
24 required medical examination under this section is subject to
25 Section 408.0043. A chiropractor who performs a required medical
26 examination under this section is subject to Section 408.0045.

27 SECTION 3. Section 408.0041(b), Labor Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (b) A medical examination requested under Subsection (a)
3 shall be performed by the next available doctor on the division's
4 list of designated doctors whose credentials are appropriate for
5 the issue in question and the injured employee's medical condition
6 as determined by commissioner rule. A designated doctor, other than
7 a chiropractor, is subject to Section 408.0043. A designated
8 doctor who is a chiropractor is subject to Section 408.0045. The
9 division shall assign a designated doctor not later than the 10th
10 day after the date on which the request under Subsection (a) is
11 approved, and the examination must be conducted not later than the
12 21st day after the date on which the commissioner issues the order
13 under Subsection (a). An examination under this section may not be
14 conducted more frequently than every 60 days, unless good cause for
15 more frequent examinations exists, as defined by commissioner
16 rules.

17 SECTION 4. Section 408.0231(g), Labor Code, is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (g) The commissioner shall adopt rules regarding doctors
20 who perform peer review functions for insurance carriers. Those
21 rules may include standards for peer review, imposition of
22 sanctions on doctors performing peer review functions, including
23 restriction, suspension, or removal of the doctor's ability to
24 perform peer review on behalf of insurance carriers in the workers'
25 compensation system, and other issues important to the quality of
26 peer review, as determined by the commissioner. A doctor who
27 performs peer review under this subtitle must hold the appropriate

1 professional license issued by this state. A doctor, other than a
2 chiropractor or a dentist, who performs peer review is subject to
3 Section 408.0043. A dentist who performs a peer review of a dental
4 service provided to an injured employee is subject to Section
5 408.0044. A chiropractor who performs a peer review of a
6 chiropractic service provided to an injured employee is subject to
7 Section 408.0045.

8 SECTION 5. Section 408.1225, Labor Code, is amended by
9 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

10 (e) A designated doctor, other than a chiropractor, is
11 subject to Section 408.0043. A designated doctor who is a
12 chiropractor is subject to Section 408.0045.

13 SECTION 6. Section 413.031, Labor Code, is amended by
14 amending Subsections (d) and (e) and adding Subsection (e-3) to
15 read as follows:

16 (d) A review of the medical necessity of a health care
17 service requiring preauthorization under Section 413.014 or
18 commissioner rules under that section or Section 413.011(g) shall
19 be conducted by an independent review organization under Chapter
20 4202 [Article 21.58C], Insurance Code, in the same manner as
21 reviews of utilization review decisions by health maintenance
22 organizations. It is a defense for the insurance carrier if the
23 carrier timely complies with the decision of the independent review
24 organization.

25 (e) Except as provided by Subsections (d), (f), and (m), a
26 review of the medical necessity of a health care service provided
27 under this chapter or Chapter 408 shall be conducted by an

1 independent review organization under Chapter 4202 [~~Article~~
2 ~~21.58C~~], Insurance Code, in the same manner as reviews of
3 utilization review decisions by health maintenance organizations.
4 It is a defense for the insurance carrier if the carrier timely
5 complies with the decision of the independent review organization.

6 (e-3) Notwithstanding Subsections (d) and (e) of this
7 section or Chapters 4201 and 4202, Insurance Code, a doctor, other
8 than a dentist or a chiropractor, who performs a utilization review
9 or an independent review, including a retrospective review, of a
10 health care service provided to an injured employee is subject to
11 Section 408.0043. A dentist who performs a utilization review or an
12 independent review, including a retrospective review, of a dental
13 service provided to an injured employee is subject to Section
14 408.0044. A chiropractor who performs a utilization review or an
15 independent review, including a retrospective review, of a
16 chiropractic service provided to an injured employee is subject to
17 Section 408.0045.

18 SECTION 7. Section 413.0512, Labor Code, is amended by
19 adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

20 (f) A member of the medical quality review panel, other than
21 a chiropractor, who reviews a specific workers' compensation case
22 is subject to Section 408.0043. A chiropractor who reviews a
23 specific workers' compensation case is subject to Section 408.0045.

24 SECTION 8. The change in law made by this Act applies only
25 to a review of a health care service provided under a claim for
26 workers' compensation benefits that is conducted on or after the
27 effective date of this Act. A review that is conducted before that

1 date is governed by the law in effect on the date that the review was
2 conducted, and the former law is continued in effect for that
3 purpose.

4 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2004 was passed by the House on April 11, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2004 on May 14, 2007, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 2004 on May 25, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 135, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

H.B. No. 2004

I certify that H.B. No. 2004 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 8, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 2004 on May 25, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor