

Pinnacol Pointers for Safety Group Programs

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Editor's Note: Safety Group Program Monthly Newsletter Article – March 2015
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Colorado Workers' Comp Law Changes April 1

During the 2014 Colorado Legislative Session, state lawmakers passed House Bill 1383, which increases from two to four the number of medical providers an employer or their insurer must designate for the employer's injured workers to choose from. At least one of the providers must be at a distinct location and from distinct ownership from the other three. Colorado employers will need to take action before the law goes into effect April 1, 2015.

Like the previous law, there are exemptions for policyholders located in rural areas of the state:

- If there are at least four, but fewer than nine providers at distinct locations and without common ownership within 30 miles of the employer, the employer can designate *two providers* at distinct locations and without common ownership.
- If there are three or fewer providers at distinct locations and without common ownership within 30 miles of the employer, the employer can designate *two providers at the same location and with common ownership*.

Pinnacol policyholders can search for and add two additional providers now by visiting Pinnacol.com and clicking Manage *SelectNet* Providers in the Quick Links column.

Because of the difficulty of tracking individual physicians, Pinnacol's system can only track medical providers at the clinic level. However, if an employer would like to designate at the physician level, they can contact their underwriter.

Designating the additional providers is only one part of the law. To fulfill all the requirements of the law, employers will still need to provide the Designated Providers List Notification Letter to their employees at the time of injury.

For more details, and to access a template of the Designated Providers List Notification Letter, please visit www.pinnacol.com/1383

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