



WORKNET Occupational Medicine
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Dear Valued WORKNET Client:

We are reaching out to you to review some very important changes in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), Department of Transportation (DOT), Commercial Driver Medical Certification process. It is our intent to inform you of these changes in a timely manner to allow for questions/clarifications you may have. To further assist you with preparing for these changes, WORKNET will be **holding a conference call** for our clients on **April 5, 2016 at 2:00PM**. It is best to read through this documentation prior to the call so you are prepared. **Should you choose to participate in our webinar/call, please use the following information:**

<https://smvc.selectmedicalcorp.com/r2wx8d6xo4/>

Please make sure your computer has **ADOBE FLASH** in order to view the presentation. The day of the presentation sign into the webinar as a **"GUEST"**. Then call the 888 telephone number listed below:

Audio call-in #: **888.450.5996** Participant code: **109387**

Over the past several months, the DOT has finalized many changes to the Commercial Driver Medical Certification process, including the use of new forms. These changes will impact the outcomes of some DOT medical exams. The changes referenced above went into effect December 22, 2015 and all Medical Examiners are expected to comply with these changes no later than April 20, 2016. In addition to the new Medical Examination Report Form/MCSA-5875 (i.e. often referred to as the Long Form) and the new Medical Examiner's Certificate/MCSA-5876 (i.e. often referred to as the Driver Medical Card), there are new options for the Medical Examiner to choose when performing a Medical Examiner Determination that could lead to certifying delays and the need for additional medical examinations if not addressed appropriately. It is our hope that this letter will serve to clarify applicable changes and help lead to a smooth transition.

Although not an all-inclusive list, two important changes and what these changes may mean for you and your drivers are highlighted below:

1. The new Long Form now requires a complete repeat medical examination when the Medical Examiner extends a Driver's Medical Card that was previously issued for less than two years. For clarification of this new requirement, see page 6 of the Frequently Asked Questions published by the DOT at:
<https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/ResourceCenter/documents/FAQs%20New%20Driver%20Examination%20Forms%200011216.pdf>.

**How does this differ from the previous process?*

EXAMPLE: Under the previous process, if an individual's blood pressure (BP) was above the 140/90 limit, the Medical Examiner could opt to give a Driver Medical Card with less than a two year expiration. The driver would then be required to return prior to expiration of the Driver Medical Card with proof that the BP was lower and could be given an extended Driver Medical Card without a complete medical examination being repeated. Under the new process, the Medical Examiner is required to give the driver a repeat complete medical examination when issuing any original or extended Driver Medical Card.

2. The new Long Form includes an alternative option that was not previously available under the Medical Examiner Determination section entitled "**Determination Pending**". The Determination Pending option can be used for drivers who are required to provide additional medical information to the Medical Examiner prior to a final determination being made.
 - When a driver is placed in the Determination Pending category, the driver is permitted up to 45 days to provide the Medical Examiner with the required medical information.
 - A driver is only permitted to continue to drive a Commercial Motor Vehicle in Interstate Commerce when placed in the Determination Pending Category if the driver possesses a pre-existing valid Driver Medical Card that is not expired.
 - If the required additional medical information is provided within the 45 day period and is acceptable to the Medical Examiner, an extended Driver Medical Card may be issued without a repeat complete medical examination.
 - If the additional medical information is provided after the 45 days period, a completed repeat medical examination will be required in order to issue the Driver Medical Card.

For more information pertaining the Determination Pending option, please see pages 9-11 of the Frequently Asked Questions referenced above.

**How does this differ from the previous process?*

Example: Under the new process, if an individual's blood pressure (BP) is above the 140/90 limit, the Medical Examiner could place the driver in the Determination Pending category. If placed in the Determination Pending category, the driver would be required to provide the necessary additional medical information to the Medical Examiner within 45 days to avoid the need for a complete re-examination when the Driver Medical Card is issued; and, the driver would only be permitted to drive while in the Determination Pending category if the driver already possessed a pre-existing Driver Medical Card that was not expired.

In order to minimize delays in certification and the need for repeat medical examinations, WORKNET has a few proactive recommendations:

- **All drivers should schedule their medical examinations 45 days prior to the expiration date on their existing Driver Medical Card.**
 - *By scheduling your medical examination early, a Determination Pending status can be applied if needed and the driver can continue driving with their previous non-expired Driver Medical Card. As long as the driver returns within 45 days of being issued the Determination Pending status with the appropriate documentation, a new Driver Medical Card may be issued without an interruption in driving and without another complete medical examination. If the driver waits until their existing card is expired, they will risk a delay in certification and possibly the inability to drive a Commercial Motor Vehicle in Interstate Commerce should the driver be placed in the Determination Pending category, or risk the need for an additional complete medical examination should the driver be given a Driver Medical Card with a shortened expiration date.*
- **All drivers should come to their medical examination with the required/related medical documentation based on their past medical history.**
 - *This will help avoid delays/interruption in certification. For instance, if a driver has had a heart attack, by coming to their appointment with the required medical documentation in hand instead of being sent to get that after the fact, the driver will avoid being placed in the Determination Pending category or being given a Driver Medical Card with a shortened expiration date.*
 - *In anticipation of these changes, WORKNET has attached a list of common medical problems with the appropriate testing/documentation requirements most commonly required. The attachment should be distributed to your drivers so they can bring the most commonly required medical documentation to their Commercial Driver Certification medical examination.*

Based on the changes described above, it is inevitable that some drivers may be required to have follow-up medical examinations that were not required under the previous DOT process.

In order to lessen the burden, WORKNET has decided to perform repeat DOT medical examinations at a reduced rate. We understand that you may have questions regarding these changes. Many of your questions can be answered by reviewing the frequently asked questions published by the DOT at:

<https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/ResourceCenter/documents/FAQs%20New%20Driver%20Examination%20Forms%20011216.pdf>.

As always, we greatly value your business and will work together with you to navigate these changes in the best way possible. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any concerns you may have regarding these changes.

Sincerely,
The WORKNET Occupational Medicine Team