

NOTICE TO WORKER

This “Notice of Closure” is a legal document that closes your claim. It tells you the periods of time you qualified for temporary disability (time loss) and how much permanent disability you have, if any. See below to learn how a permanent disability award is paid.

APPEAL RIGHTS: If you disagree with this Notice of Closure, you have the right to appeal the closure of your claim by asking for a “reconsideration” within 60 days from the mailing date printed in box 1 on the front of this form. If you do not appeal within 60 days, you will lose all rights to appeal your claim closure. Form 2223A, “Worker Request for Reconsideration” is available from the Workers’ Compensation Division in Salem or on the division’s Web site: www.wcd.oregon.gov/policy/bulletins/formsbyno.html. To have the form mailed to you, call 503-947-7816 or write to the Workers’ Compensation Division, Appellate Review Unit, 350 Winter St. NE, P.O. Box 14480, Salem, OR 97309-0405. After completing the form, mail or deliver it to the Appellate Review Unit. You have the right to have an attorney represent you during the appeal process.

You have the right to request a vocational eligibility evaluation by contacting us and requesting one. We may not be required to determine vocational eligibility if you have returned to regular work, have a regular work release, or you have no award of permanent disability. If you do request an eligibility evaluation, we will respond by 1) beginning your evaluation within five days and giving you our decision within 30 days, or 2) notifying you within 14 days why you are not entitled to an evaluation.

As the insurer, we can also appeal this notice. We must make our request for review of the impairment findings portion within seven days of the mailing date in box 1 of this notice.

Frequently asked questions:

What are “scheduled,” “unscheduled,” and “whole-person” disability?

Scheduled disability is the loss of use or function of an arm, hand, leg, or foot, or the loss of visual or hearing ability. A “schedule” in the Oregon law lists these body parts with specific dollar amounts allowed for each part or for a percentage of loss of use for each part.

Unscheduled disability involves impairment of body parts or systems (such as the back, hip, or respiratory system). In addition to impairment, the calculation of unscheduled disability may include factors such as age, education, work history, and current ability to perform work.

Whole-person disability is permanent impairment of the whole person resulting from the loss of use or function of any portion of the body. In addition to impairment, we may award a value for work disability (impairment and factors of age, education, work history, and the current ability to work) when a worker does not return to the job he or she was doing when he or she was injured.

How do we pay permanent disability awards?

If an award is less than or equal to \$6,000, we will pay the entire amount, minus any money we overpaid you, within 30 days from the mailing date on this notice. If the award is more than \$6,000, we will make monthly payments after we recover any overpayment. The award payments will begin within 30 days of the mailing date on this notice. If you want the whole award paid to you at one time, you may ask us for a “lump-sum payment.” NOTE: If you ask for and accept a lump-sum payment of an award that is more than \$6,000, you give up your right to appeal your permanent disability award.

What if you still need medical care?

We are responsible for future medical services with some limitations. We or your doctor can tell you which medical services are covered.

More questions?

- You may contact us if you have questions about this Notice of Closure or your rights and responsibilities.
- You may also contact a benefit consultant at the Workers’ Compensation Division, 503-947-7585 or 800-452-0288.
- The Ombudsman for Injured Workers can help you understand your rights. You may call the Ombudsman at 503-378-3351 or 800-927-1271 to get help or to set up an appointment.
 - ◆ There is no charge for help from the Ombudsman’s office or the Workers’ Compensation Division.
- You should have received the brochure *Understanding Claim Closure and Your Rights* with this Notice of Closure. Another brochure, *What happens if I’m hurt on the job*, will give you additional information. To order these brochures, call 503-947-7627 or go to the Workers’ Compensation Division’s Web site: www.wcd.oregon.gov/pubs.html.