

44-515. Medical examinations; suspension of benefits; travel and living expenses; availability of reports; disqualification of certain medical evidence; consideration of health care providers' opinions. (a) After an employee sustains an injury, the employee shall, upon request of the employer, submit to an examination at any reasonable time and place by any one or more reputable health care providers, selected by the employer, and shall so submit to an examination thereafter at intervals during the pendency of such employee's claim for compensation, upon the request of the employer, but the employee shall not be required to submit to an examination oftener than twice in any one month, unless required to do so in accordance with such orders as may be made by the director. All benefits shall be suspended to an employee who refuses to submit to such examination or examinations until such time as the employee complies with the employer's request. The suspension of benefits shall occur even if the employer is under preliminary order to provide such benefits. Any employee so submitting to an examination or such employee's authorized representative shall upon written request be entitled to receive and shall have delivered to such employee a copy of the health care provider's report of such examination within a reasonable amount of time after such examination, which report shall be identical to the report submitted to the employer. If the employee is notified to submit to an examination before any health care provider in any town or city other than the residence of the employee at the time that the employee received an injury, the employee shall not be required to submit to an examination until such employee has been furnished with sufficient funds to pay for transportation to and from the place of examination at the rate prescribed for compensation of state officers and employees under K.S.A. 75-3203a, and amendments thereto, for each mile actually and necessarily traveled to and from the place of examination, any tumpike or other tolls and any parking fees actually and necessarily incurred, and in addition the sum of \$15 per day for each full day that the employee was required to be away from such employee's residence to defray such employee's board and lodging and living expenses. The employee shall not be liable for any fees or charge of any health care provider selected by the employer for making any examination of the employee. The employer or the insurance carrier of the employer of any employee making claim for compensation under the workers compensation act shall be entitled to a copy of the report of any health care provider who has examined or treated the employee in regard to such claim upon written request to the employee or the employee's attorney within a reasonable amount of time after such examination or treatment, which report shall be identical to the report submitted to the employee or the employee's attorney.

(b) If the employee requests, such employee shall be entitled to have health care providers of such employee's own selection present at the time to participate in such examination.

(c) Unless a report is furnished as provided in subsection (a) and unless there is a reasonable opportunity thereafter for the health care providers selected by the employee to participate in the examination in the presence of the health care providers selected by the employer, the health care providers selected by the employer or employee shall not be permitted afterwards to give evidence of the condition of the employee at the time such examination was made.

(d) Except as provided in this section, there shall be no disqualification or privilege preventing the furnishing of reports by or the testimony of any health care provider who actually makes an examination or treats an injured employee, prior to or after an injury.

(e) Any health care provider's opinion, whether the provider is a treating health care provider or is an examining health care provider, regarding a claimant's need for medical treatment, inability to work, prognosis, diagnosis and disability rating shall be considered and given appropriate weight by the trier of fact together with consideration of all other evidence.

History: L. 1927, ch. 232, § 15; L. 1955, ch. 250, § 6; L. 1967, ch. 280, § 6; L. 1974, ch. 203, § 23; L. 1977, ch. 174, § 3; L. 1980, ch. 146, § 4; L. 1990, ch. 182, § 6; L. 1990, ch. 183, § 6; L. 1991, ch. 144, § 5; L. 2011, ch. 55, § 14; May 15.