

876—4.48(17A,85,86) Application for alternate care.

4.48(1) Purpose. The purpose of this rule is to establish the procedures for issuing decisions on applications for alternate care within the time provided in Iowa Code section 85.27.

4.48(2) Definitions. The following definitions apply to this rule:

“*Application for alternate care*,” hereinafter referred to as “*application*,” shall mean a contested case proceeding filed with the workers’ compensation commissioner which requests alternate care pursuant to Iowa Code section 85.27.

“*Employer*” means the person or entity who is liable for payment of medical services provided pursuant to the Iowa workers’ compensation laws and includes an employer, an employer who has been relieved from insurance pursuant to Iowa Code section 87.11, and an insurance carrier which provides an employer with workers’ compensation insurance.

“*Proper application*” means an application for alternate care that complies with the requirements of this rule.

4.48(3) Dissatisfaction—basis. Prior to filing the application the employee must communicate the basis of dissatisfaction of the care to the employer.

4.48(4) Application. The application shall: be filed on the form provided by the workers’ compensation commissioner; concern only the issue of alternate care; state the reasons for the employee’s dissatisfaction with the care chosen by the employer; be served on the employer; contain proof of service on the employer; and specify whether a telephone or in-person hearing is requested.

4.48(5) Fee. No filing fee is due. See 4.8(2)“a.”

4.48(6) Employer liability. Application cannot be filed under this rule if the liability of the employer is an issue. If an application is filed where the liability of the employer is an issue, the application will be dismissed without prejudice. (Petitions for alternate care where liability of the employer is an issue should be filed pursuant to rule 876—4.1(85,85A,85B,86,87,17A).)

4.48(7) Notice of hearing. The workers’ compensation commissioner will notify the parties by ordinary mail, by facsimile transmission (fax) or by WCES of the time, place and nature of the hearing. No notice will be made until a proper application is received by the workers’ compensation commissioner. The notice will specify whether the hearing will be by telephone, in person or by other digital means.

4.48(8) Appearance or answer. After being served with an application for alternate care, the employer shall file an appearance of answer as soon as practicable before the time of the hearing.

4.48(9) Discovery and evidence. All discovery must be completed prior to the contested case hearing. See subrule 4.48(10) on motions on discovery matters. Any written evidence to be used by the employer or the employee must be exchanged prior to the hearing. All written evidence must be filed with the agency before the date of the hearing. Written evidence shall be limited to ten pages per party.

4.48(10) Motions. All motions except as provided in this subrule will be considered at the hearing. A timely motion to change the type of hearing (telephone or in-person) may be considered prior to the hearing. The workers’ compensation commissioner will make no rulings on discovery matters or motions.

4.48(11) Briefs. Hearing briefs, if any, must be filed with the agency before the date of the hearing and shall be limited to three pages.

4.48(12) Hearing. The hearing will be held by telephone, in person or by other digital means in Des Moines, Iowa. The employer shall have the right to request an in-person hearing if the employee has requested a telephone hearing in the application. The employer shall on the record respond to the allegations contained in the application. The hearing will be electronically recorded. If there is an appeal of a proposed decision or judicial review of final agency action, the appealing party is responsible for filing a transcript of the hearing.

Copies of the recording will be provided to the parties upon notice of appeal. A transcript shall be provided by the appealing party pursuant to Iowa Code section 86.24(4) and a copy thereof shall be served on the opposing party at the time the transcript is filed with the workers’ compensation commissioner unless the parties submit an agreed-upon transcript. If a party disputes the accuracy of any transcript prepared by the opposing party, that party shall submit its contentions to the workers’ compensation commissioner for resolution. Any transcription charges incurred by the workers’ compensation

commissioner in resolving the dispute shall be initially paid pursuant to Iowa Code section 86.19(1) by the party who disputes the accuracy of the transcript prepared by the appellant.

4.48(13) *Represented party.* A party may be represented as provided in Iowa Code section 631.14. The presiding deputy workers' compensation commissioner may permit a party who is a natural person to be assisted during a hearing by any person who does so without cost to that party if the assistance promotes full and fair disclosure of the facts or otherwise enhances the conduct of the hearing. The employer and its insurance carrier shall be treated as one party unless their interests appear to be in conflict and a representative of either the employer or its insurance carrier shall be deemed to be a representative of both unless notice to the contrary is given.

4.48(14) *Decision.* A decision will be issued within 10 working days of receipt of a proper application when a telephone hearing is held or within 14 working days of receipt of a proper application when an in-person hearing is held.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.12, 85.27, 86.8 and 86.17.

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