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Mr Bradley Bick
Director
Workers' Compensation Policy
Workers' Compensation Regulatory Services
Office of Industrial Relations

88 L'Estrange Terrace
Kelvin Grove 4059

PO Box 123
Red Hill 4059

Ph: (07) 3872 2222
Fax: (07) 3856 4727

amaq@amaq.com.au

ACN: 009 660 280
ABN: 17 009 660 280

Dear Mr Bick

Thank you for providing AMA Queensland with the opportunity to provide feedback on the guidance document relating to employer attendance at medical consultations.

AMA Queensland is the state's peak medical advocacy group, representing over 9,600 doctors across Queensland and throughout all levels of the health system.

Overall, AMA Queensland is supportive of the guidance document. However, we will further discuss the document in detail below.

Workers have the right to choose their own treating doctor

AMA Queensland agrees with this statement, as we believe that everyone should have a General Practitioner they know and trust. This allows for comprehensive patient care as their regular treating doctor would know the most about their medical history. We agree that employers cannot require workers to see the employer's choice of doctor.

Employer attendance at medical consultations

Employers should not be entitled to attend medical appointments. Medical appointments between a patient and their doctor can cover private and sensitive matters. There is no reason for an employer to attend these medical appointments unless invited to do so by their employee.

Case conferencing

AMA Queensland agrees that, with the worker's consent, an employer can engage with a worker's treating doctor regarding their treatment, recovery and capacity for returning to work. It is important for the employer to know what the worker's limitations may be for when/if they return to work. However, the sensitive information of the patient must be protected.

Medical authorities

Medical records contain sensitive information, which should only stay between a patient and their doctor. AMA Queensland's position is that an employer can only obtain a worker's medical records if the worker consents to the authority. If the employee does

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not agree to the authority, then the employer should not be able to access the worker's medical records. AMA Queensland also wishes to uphold the right of the worker to not be obligated to agree to the authority, as mentioned on page 1 of the guidance document.

AMA Queensland does not support the proposed wording in the guidance document regarding records being disclosed to third parties, but rather we recommend that an additional clause be added to the worker's authority and declaration contained within the consent form. We recommend the following:

"I understand that my employer may distribute my medical records to third parties."

Thank you again for providing AMA Queensland with the opportunity to provide feedback on the guidance document relating to employer attendance at medical consultations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Dale". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Brett Dale
Chief Executive Officer
AMA Queensland