



# ***Return to Work Temporary Modified Duty or Lost Time***



Stanislaus County  
CEO-Risk Management Division

1010 10th Street, Suite 5900  
Modesto, CA 95354

Phone: 209-525-5710 (main line)  
Fax: 209-525-5779

*CEO-Risk Management  
Division  
Disability Management Unit*

Tel: 209-525-5782

## ***Why you're getting this brochure***

Your doctor has decided it would be helpful for your recovery if you were to return to work performing a *Temporary Modified Duty* assignment.

Please take a few minutes to read this brochure. If you have questions, do not hesitate to speak to your doctor, other health-care professional, or Medical Review Nurse in the CEO-Risk Management Division @ 525-5775.

## ***What is Temporary Modified Duty?***

*Temporary Modified Duty* is the use of temporary work tasks to help an injured or ill employee recover until he or she can return to full duty. It will help you to recover more quickly and completely.

## ***Why is Temporary Modified Duty necessary?***

In many cases it is important for injured or

ill workers to remain active during their recovery. When you stay active through modified duties you may return to your regular job sooner, maintain communication with your supervisor and co-workers, and regain financial security.

## ***Can I recover at home?***

When an injured or ill employee cannot or should not perform any duties at work, then time at home is advised. In the event of a serious injury, illness or infectious condition, recovering at home may be the best alternative.

There are, however, some problems that may develop when workers remain at home too long. Lack of daily exercise and activity tends to wear down general muscle tone and fitness. This may increase the likelihood of re-injury when you return to full duty.

As soon as you can perform some kind of limited, temporary assignments, *Temporary Modified Duty* can be the bridge from staying at home to returning to regular employment.

## ***How do I avoid re-injury?***

No one can guarantee that you will not re-injure yourself when you come back to work. A well thought out *Temporary Modified Duty* plan does, however, reduce the likelihood of re-injury by limiting and monitoring the duties you perform.



**Remember, Temporary Modified Duty is not the end of your treatment, it is part of it.**

**What do I need to do?**

You and your supervisor will design the best *Temporary Modified Duty* plan by working *together*. It is a team effort.

Start by asking yourself,

“What parts of my regular job could I still do?”

“What activities need to be done at work that I could do?”

Share your ideas with your supervisor as soon as possible. The best plans provide you with tasks to help you recover and give your department the ability to get valuable work done.

**When should I meet with my supervisor?**

Call your supervisor today. Our supervisors understand the benefits of *Temporary Modified Duty* and will work with you to provide *Temporary Modified Duty* when possible.

If, however, your supervisor is unable to provide you with *Temporary Modified Duty*; let the CEO-Risk Management Division and your doctor know as soon as possible so he or she can evaluate your need for outside physical therapy or conditioning. After you recover more fully, you and your supervisor may then be able to develop an assignment consistent with your capabilities and medical treatment plan.

**How will Temporary Modified Duty work for me?**

Your *Temporary Modified Duty* release has three parts:

- ❖ **Medical Restrictions**  
These are activities you should *not* do.
- ❖ **Abilities**  
These are activities you are *able* to do.
- ❖ **Recommendations**  
These are activities you should *try* to do.

It is important that the *Temporary Modified Duty* assignment causes you no harm. If your *Temporary Modified Duty* plan includes activities that you feel you should not do, tell your supervisor. It is also important to inform your doctor of any activities that cause you physical problems or pain.

Only a professional can evaluate whether the discomfort you feel is harmful to you. Report any significant pain associated with your *Temporary Modified Duty* activities to your doctor as soon as possible. Suspend or limit activities until they can be assessed.

**How long does this last?**

The length of a *Temporary Modified Duty* plan is different for each person. You, your supervisor, and your doctor should discuss your recovery goals and the expected length of your transitional assignment.

**Do I have to do this?**

Your doctor has recommended *Temporary Modified Duty* as the best course of action to help you to recover. It is to your advantage to participate in *Temporary Modified Duty*.

**Will my medical treatment continue?**

*Temporary Modified Duty* is only one part of your treatment. Your doctor may advise you to attend physical or occupational therapy, receive medication or undergo medical procedures, and participate in regular medical follow-up appointments to assess your progress.

**What Now?**

Follow your doctor’s instructions. Take the work release directly to your supervisor.

Focus on remaining active and getting better. Let your doctor know of any problems or changes in your condition.

**Take the First Step!**



**EMPLOYEE’S RESPONSIBILITIES**

When an employee is *off work due to a medical condition*, it is the employee's responsibility to **submit any and all work status slips** to his or her department. The work status slip must be shared with and the leave must be approved by the employee’s supervisor, failure to do so could result in disciplinary action up to and including **termination for job abandonment**.

If an employee is released to return to work with **Temporary Work Restrictions**, the employee should contact his or her supervisor immediately to determine if there is a *Temporary Modified Duty* work assignment available. If the employee neglects to contact his or her supervisor in a timely manner, it can affect Workers Compensation payments and/or the ability to receive Sick Leave Benefits.

If an employee receives **Permanent Work Restrictions** the employee should contact his or her supervisor and the CEO-Risk Management Division to determine if these restrictions can be permanently accommodated.

**Stanislaus County  
CEO-Risk Management Division**

1010 10th Street, Suite 5900  
Modesto, CA 95354

Phone: 209-525-5710 (main line)  
Fax: 209-525-5779