

**From:** Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation [donotreply@bwc.state.oh.us]  
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## BWC eNews - September 2012

### Forms revised to help injured workers, and physicians in RTW efforts

BWC continues to move forward on our objective to more effectively manage injured workers' lost-time claims. A focus on return to work has been a visible aspect of this objective, as we understand that quickly and safely getting an injured worker back on the job aids the healing process and reduces the cost of the claim.

Two tools critical to managing lost-time claims are the Physician's Report of Work Ability (MEDCO-14) and Request for Temporary Total Compensation (C-84) forms. Implementing changes to these forms has been an important step in our efforts to increase effective management of these claims by better aligning the information collected with the purpose of each form.

The MEDCO-14 captures medical information that helps us understand injured workers' ability to return to their current job; medical restrictions and capabilities; and medical and vocational issues that may hinder or assist them in returning to work. Therefore, we modified the MEDCO-14 to better capture medical information reflective of injured workers' capabilities and disabilities.

When an injured worker requests temporary total benefits, they use a C-84. The primary objective of this form is to capture basic information in support of their request for temporary benefits. Given the enhancements to the MEDCO-14, we streamlined the C-84 to capture the right information and eliminate the need for doctors to submit redundant medical data.

This balanced approach allows a more efficient consideration of all claim information to help us identify return-to-work opportunities that meet the medical needs of an injured worker. We can also use the information to evaluate an injured worker's request for indemnity benefits (i.e. temporary total or wage loss).

These changes mean employers can now expect to receive MEDCO-14 forms from providers to supply work abilities from which they can offer modified work to accommodate where possible and certify

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temporary total disability. For employers using their own forms to request information from providers, we request you consider revising or eliminating the form to prevent duplication. This helps to reduce duplicative requests to providers, and is the required documentation BWC uses for state-funded claims.

Contact the [service office](#) in your area or call 1-800-OHIOBWC with questions.

## Attention public employers

Now is the time for public employers to enroll in several programs\* designed to help you keep your workforce safe, save money and better manage your workers' compensation program.

The enrollment period for Destination: Excellence runs through October 31. The program allows eligible employers to tailor a plan focused on keeping your workplace safe and getting injured workers healthy and back to work sooner. There are a variety of options such as the Industry Specific Safety and Drug-Free Safety programs, as well as back-to-work programs like the Transitional Work and Vocational Rehabilitation programs. You can even get a discount for doing business online and on-time. Learn more about Destination: Excellence [here](#) (Flash Player required).

October 31 is also the deadline to enroll in the following programs:

- **Deductible:** lower your premiums with an upfront premium discount in the form of a per claim deductible.
- **Group retrospective rating:** Join a group within your industry, continue to pay individual premiums, and then receive retrospective premium adjustments based on the combined performance of the group.
- **Individual retrospective rating:** Individual employers can earn a possible premium reduction by assuming a portion of the risk.

Visit the [program eligibility look-up tool](#) for a complete list of all BWC programs and your eligibility status for each. Contact the [service office](#) in your area for personal assistance.

*\*Public employer taxing districts (PECs) subject to compatibility requirements.*

## BWC honors Ohio's fallen workers

BWC paid tribute to Ohio workers who lost their lives over the last year during the annual Fallen Workers' Memorial ceremony August 29. More than 100 workplace death claims were filed last year.

BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer and members of the BWC Board of Directors led the ceremony, which concluded with a reading of the names of workers who died across Ohio from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012.

"We're here to pay tribute to those who lost their life on the job and remember the importance of our efforts to create safer workplaces so

other families do not face the same grief,” said BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer.

This year’s ceremony is posted on [BWC’s YouTube channel](#).

## BWC website outage scheduled for September 23

BWC will transition to a new mainframe Sunday, Sept. 23, resulting in a temporary shutdown of our website, [ohiobwc.com](#). The site will be unavailable for use from about **11 a.m. to midnight on Sunday, Sept. 23**. Users will see an information page explaining the outage and will not be able to use the site.

BWC’s mainframe is the super computer that is the hub of most agency applications and IT services and is currently housed at our headquarters in Columbus. The transition will allow a larger, centralized state mainframe to begin running most BWC applications.

The change is part of a larger effort to improve cost efficiency by consolidating more of the state’s IT operations.

The site will be available again beginning at midnight, Monday, Sept. 24, when BWC begins running live on the new mainframe.

*Please take a moment to [forward this email](#) to other managers in your organization and to your colleagues who may find it of value.*

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Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation  
30 W. Spring St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-2256