

**From:** Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation  
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# BWC Provider eNews



April 11, 2014

## **Time change for May 14 provider stakeholder meeting: 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

BWC invites you to our spring provider stakeholder meeting from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 14, in the second floor auditorium of the William Green Building in downtown Columbus. To accommodate your schedules, the meeting will start later in the afternoon.

### **Participate via videoconference in your area**

In addition, if you cannot attend the meeting in Columbus, you can participate via videoconference from one of our [customer service offices](#). If you are planning to view the meeting from one of these office locations, please email your RSVP to [Janice](#).

You also may request a meeting agenda or if you have meeting-topic suggestions, please send them to the same email address.

Mark your calendars and participate. Everyone is welcome.

## **ICD-10 implementation date postponed; continuing ICD-10 coding efforts**

Congress recently passed legislation that prohibits the adoption of the new International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Version (ICD-10) code set prior to Oct. 1, 2015. This is a change from the Oct. 1, 2014, implementation date.

The bill's language leaves open the possibility that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) could allow the early adoption of ICD-10s while still permitting health-care entities to use ICD-9 codes. At this time, we are awaiting guidance from HHS for a new implementation date and protocols.

### **What the ICD-10 delay means**

We are moving forward to execute our defined project plan and strategy. This helps successfully prepare our infrastructure and staff members for the health-care system's ICD-10 implementation.

"The delay gives us additional time for training and validation of our new coding system for the benefit of Ohio's injured workers and employers," says Chief of Medical Services Freddie Johnson.

For the latest updates, watch for future editions of BWC Provider eNews.

## **May 14: Condition descriptions, not diagnosis ICD codes on employer/injured worker correspondence**

BWC bases claim allowances on condition descriptions provided by physicians. BWC staff members then verify a numeric ICD code that corresponds to the condition description. BWC systems store the code for medical bill reimbursement, claim reserving and accident/injury trending and analysis. Historically, BWC correspondence and orders included the narrative condition description and the numeric ICD code.

In preparation for the upcoming transition to ICD-10, BWC will change how it provides diagnoses on BWC-generated correspondence. Beginning May 14, BWC will only include the narrative condition descriptions in correspondence to injured workers and employers as well as orders.

### **Codes for billing, reimbursement**

However, BWC will continue to include narrative condition descriptions and numeric ICD codes in physician and medical-provider correspondence. Providers need this information for billing and reimbursement purposes. If you have questions, please [email](#) our provider feedback mailbox.

## **New Web page shares opioid prescribing guidelines**

BWC has a new [Web page](#) to help prescribers of opioids with step-by-step guidelines on how to manage pain for injured workers. You may find the page in the [Medical Providers section](#) of our website. under Featured Links.

"We want our providers to know that they can go to this page and find out what BWC expects in terms of opioid management," says BWC's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Stephen Woods. "We have also provided additional resource materials if needed."

### **80 MED trigger**

The Web page refers to the State of Ohio's guidelines written by the [Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team](#) and endorsed by many medical associations in the state. A key point is if a patient reaches 80 MED (Morphine Equivalent Doses) per day, the prescriber should "press pause." Then, the prescriber is encouraged to thoroughly evaluate the patient's medical history and functional improvement before continuing to prescribe opioids.

That evaluation includes a review of the [Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System](#), which will display

a complete list of all medications the patient is receiving, including from other prescribers.

**Welcome your input**

While the state guidelines cover all patients in Ohio, BWC believes providers should monitor injured workers more closely. In the future, we will explore tightening the trigger point for re-evaluation to 60 MED within a six-to-eight week time frame. We welcome your ideas on these guidelines. Please submit them to [BWCOhioMed@bwc.state.oh.com](mailto:BWCOhioMed@bwc.state.oh.com).

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