

From: Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
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BWC Provider eNews



Aug. 4, 2014

MEDCO-14 reminders

Follow these tips when completing the **Physician's Report of Work Ability (MEDCO-14)**. It will ensure you submit the form correctly the first time, and thus, receive less follow-up inquiries from us.

- The treating physician must submit this form each time the physician sees the worker. If the worker is permanently and totally disabled, or has been previously released to perform, without restrictions, the job he or she did when injured, the MEDCO-14 is no longer necessary.
- A nurse practitioner's (NP) or physician assistant's (PA) signature on the form cannot be accepted by BWC. The multiple ways the data on the form is used requires that the physician must see the worker, complete the form, and sign it.
- The physician may delegate a designee who can sign his or her name on the MEDCO-14 with the designee's initials following. However, the physician must complete the exam.

BWC is reviewing the MEDCO-14 for revisions. Provider eNews will feature an article about the changes later in 2014.

Wage loss compensation helps injured workers financially as they transition back to work

After you release an injured worker to return to work with restrictions, modified duty or light duty, he or she is no longer eligible to receive temporary total compensation. However, he or she may receive wage loss compensation benefits. This compensation can supplement lost wages until the injured worker secures suitable employment that offers comparable pay. Injured workers may receive wage loss compensation while working or looking for employment.

Working versus non-working wage loss compensation

An injured worker may be eligible for wage loss when you release him or her back to work with restrictions due to the allowed conditions in the claim and, the injured worker suffers a loss of

earnings.

If the injured worker:

- Has light or modified duty employment to return to then, he or she could apply for **working wage loss**;
- Does not have a job to return to and begins to seek comparably paying and suitable employment, he or she could apply for **non-working wage loss**.

In addition, earlier this year, we revised [Ohio Administrative Code 4125-1-01](#) (wage loss rule). Due to these revisions, we changed the [Initial Application for Wage Loss Compensation \(C-140\)](#).

Rule changes: Requirements for a medical report submitted with an initial application for wage loss compensation

The rule states the application must include a medical report that contains documentation of restrictions related to the allowed conditions in the claim. The report includes:

- Any restrictions that are a direct result of the allowed conditions in the claim;
- An indication of whether those restrictions are temporary or permanent;
- When the restrictions are temporary, you should state the expected duration of those restrictions. You cannot certify temporary restrictions for a period to exceed 90 days without a new examination of the injured worker;
- When the restrictions are permanent, you must base the report on an examination or treatment conducted within 90 days prior to the initial date of wage loss compensation requested on the application.

BWC will seek clarification from you if you list restrictions that do not appear related to the allowed conditions.

Requirements for ongoing wage loss

When restrictions are temporary, you cannot certify the medical report for a period to exceed 90 days without a new examination of the injured worker. The 90-day certification of restrictions is based on the exam date, not the date of the report unless the dates are the same. The report must include the expected duration of the restrictions.

Permanent restrictions are not required on an ongoing basis. However, we may request updated permanent restrictions when the situation warrants. If we make a request of the injured worker for a supplemental report, you must complete a medical examination. Then, the injured worker must submit a report resulting from the examination to BWC within 90 days of the date of the request for the supplemental report.

Are you using the most current version of BWC forms?

Is June 2014, the revision date on the [First Report of an Injury, Occupational Disease or Death \(FROI-1\)](#) you are using in your office? If no, did you know you can order the latest version of the FROI and our other forms for free online by clicking on the link provided below or by calling 1-800-

644-6292?

To see a listing of forms available to you, click on this [link](#).

Once you decide to place an order, click on the box to the far right of the form title. This is the Order column. Then, use the **previous** and **next** buttons located at the bottom of the page to navigate through the online order form.

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