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BWC Provider eNews



Feb. 14, 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Clinically-focused sessions at BWC's Ohio Safety Congress & Expo](#)
- [Using vocational rehabilitation services – the sooner, the better!](#)

Clinically-focused sessions at BWC's Ohio Safety Congress & Expo

Register to attend at no cost the [2014 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo \(OSC14\)](#), March 25 to March 27 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. This year's safety congress features more health-care sessions keeping with our focus on care and return to work for Ohio's injured workers.

We are the largest regional safety and health conference in the U.S. More than 6,000 safety and health-minded professionals attended the event last year.

Health-care tracks

The health-care tracks of interest include emergency preparedness and response, first aid and health care, health and wellness, medical and rehabilitation. To view the courses for each track, go to the [congress section](#) of our website, and then click Educational sessions. Next, click the drop-down arrow to the right of Track, click the topic you're interested in, and then click **Search**.

Of possible interest

An Overview of Legislation Impacts on the Ohio Workers' Compensation System, 11 a.m. to noon, Thursday, March 27 - an overview of selected health-care reform legislation such as the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion and implementing the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Version (ICD-9) code

conversion to ICD-10 on Oct. 1.

Free CEUs

OSC14 offers free [continuing education credits \(CEUs\)](#) for some health professionals. These credits are for emergency medical services/first responders, registered nurses, case managers, rehabilitation counselors, disability management specialists and nursing home administrators. To view the courses for each credit option, go to [Educational sessions](#). Next, click the drop-down arrow to the right of Credit Options, click the specific credit, and then click **Search**.

Contact information

In addition, the congress features a two-day [expo marketplace](#) with more than 200 safety and health vendors. It offers a great opportunity for training and networking.

- › Download the [OSC14 app](#) for the latest event information.
- › Follow Safety Congress on Twitter [@ohiobwc#OSC14](#).
- › [Register now!](#)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Using vocational rehabilitation services – the sooner, the better!

Time waits for no one. That includes referring injured workers to vocational rehabilitation services.

A review of recent rehabilitation referrals indicates when you refer an injured worker to vocational rehabilitation within the first six months after injury, the worker has a much greater chance of returning to work than an injured worker referred later.

Vocational rehabilitation is an individualized and voluntary program for injured workers who need assistance in safely returning to work. Vocational rehabilitation works to restore or maximize an injured worker's abilities and to minimize long debilitating absences from work. Research shows that when injured workers quickly and safely return to work, their feelings of self-worth stay high and their ties to the job and work community remain strong.

Don't wait for workers' maximum medical improvement

A common mistake providers make is waiting for maximum medical improvement before considering or referring an injured worker for vocational rehabilitation services. Many employers have transitional

work programs that allow injured workers to stay on their jobs doing productive work within their physical abilities as they heal.

Therefore, another key to using vocational rehabilitation services successfully is to make referrals early in the treatment process. If a return to work at the original employer is not possible, vocational rehabilitation services may help the injured worker identify skills and abilities to secure a new job with another employer.

Early referral for vocational rehabilitation

Remember, the earlier a referral to vocational rehabilitation, the greater the chance an injured worker will return to work.

If you have any questions about vocational rehabilitation within BWC's system, email them to our [rehab policy department](#).

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