

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



June 12, 2015

## Enhanced Care Program begins as a pilot on July 1 in Northeast Ohio

BWC continues to work with stakeholders in preparing to launch the Enhanced Care Program, which begins July 1. We will introduce this program, designed to encourage higher quality, better-coordinated care, as a pilot in Northeast Ohio for state-fund claimants who have knee injuries only. We expect to expand the program thereafter.

### How the Enhanced Care Program works

Claimants in Northeastern Ohio who have an allowed claim for knee injuries only will be automatically eligible to participate in the Enhanced Care Program. The physician of record (POR) will have 60 days from the initial determination to treat the allowed conditions in the claim and medical issues causally related to the allowed conditions. We will expect the POR to coordinate care where appropriate and document a comprehensive care plan, which the managed care organization (MCO) must approve.

This program also separates the medical and legal components of the workers' compensation process without affecting any party's due-process rights. For complex claims, this approach can reduce delays by as much as five weeks. This means claimants will get back to work faster and healthier than before.

### Why a physician should participate

The Enhanced Care Program provides three tangible benefits to physicians who agree to serve as a POR in the program. They are:

1. Improved outcomes: PORs can treat causally related conditions without having an explicitly allowed condition with assurance of payment;
2. Simplified process: PORs only have to submit one comprehensive care plan. They will only have to file the **Physician's Report of Work Ability (MEDCO-14)** only if there's a change in the claimant's restrictions or the claimant's compensation period needs to be adjusted;

3. Increased reimbursement: PORs will be eligible for a 15-percent incentive payment over and above what BWC pays for evaluation and management codes as part of its current fee schedule.

#### **What's the catch?**

There are additional expectations of PORs participating in the Enhanced Care Program. By signing an addendum, they agree to, among other things:

- Provide timely access to claimants seeking care for workplace injuries;
- Coordinate care for the claimant comprehensively;
- Agree for BWC to measure their performance.

#### **More information**

To inquire about signing up or to get more information, email [feedback.medical@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:feedback.medical@bwc.state.oh.us). Also, continue to check our [website](#) where we will soon make available more detailed information.

## **BWC's First-fill prescription program is underway at pharmacies**

Do you know about BWC's First Fill Program that began on May 5? First Fill provides immediate coverage for limited quantities of select, acute-care type medications before new injury claims are formally approved.

Quantities of approved medications will be for 10 days or less of coverage at the most commonly prescribed dosing schedule and will not be refillable. You may find a list of the covered medications and the maximum quantities that pharmacists may dispense [here](#).

#### **Write work-related injury on prescription**

To make the medication a first-fill prescription so the injured worker does not have to pay for it, the prescriber or the prescriber's agent must write work-related injury on the prescription and sign it. Pharmacists and pharmacy interns may write the phrase and sign telephone prescriptions.

## **ICD-10 coding is in full swing at BWC! We're calling for test partners.**

Did you know the workers' compensation system is not mandated to implement the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) for coding and thus BWC does not have to convert from ICD-9 to ICD-10? Well, we joined the ICD-10 coding effort, even though BWC is not mandated to do so.

#### **BWC's commitment**

Why, you may ask? The answer is because of YOU. Rather than have providers

meet a different coding standard than the rest of the medical world, BWC is making a commitment of service and simplicity to our provider partners.

We are now completing the training phase of our ICD-10 implementation plan we designed exclusively for our workers' compensation system. This training will prepare BWC to better support providers in your ICD-10 transition activities.

One important point to remember, while the codes may change, for workers compensation, the allowed conditions on the claims will not change. Therefore, the change to ICD-10 should not affect your provider-treatment plans.

For more information about ICD-10 activities and what this means to you, please visit our [website](#).

### Testing partners

We're calling for testing partners willing to test bill submissions with the MCOs and BWC! You may contact BWC's [HPP systems support unit](#) or work with one of our MCO billing contacts.

## Enhanced billing: BWC and MCOs accepting all industry-standard modifiers

BWC and managed care organizations (MCOs) now accept all Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) and Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) modifiers on medical bills. The modifiers include ambulance modifiers to allow providers to indicate the trip's origin and destination.

In the past, we only accepted a limited set of modifiers. However, a joint BWC and MCO workgroup researched options for streamlining billing processes and developed a master list of modifiers.

BWC and MCOs will continue to accept a small number of proprietary BWC modifiers in addition to the national standard modifiers. For more information, email BWC's [provider relations department](#).

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