

From: Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
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BWC Provider eNews



Oct. 3, 2014

Bi-annual stakeholder meeting is coming Nov. 12

Mark your calendars for the fall 2014 Provider Stakeholder meeting. We will hold the meeting from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Nov. 12, on the second floor of the William Green Building, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus. We will also broadcast the meeting live via videoconference to BWC's customer service office locations.

Please RSVP by [email](#) if you will attend the meeting at a location other than Columbus. If you have additional questions, call 1-800-644-6292, and press options 0-3-0.

Transitional work really works!

Transitional work is a progressive return-to-work program designed specifically for your patient, who is an injured worker, using a targeted job goal. The program transitions the injured worker with temporary physical restrictions back to his or her original or targeted job within a specific time period (usually no more than 90 days).

Injured workers participate in a customized recovery program specially designed for them. They transition back to their original jobs by doing their work tasks in a progressive manner based on the restrictions you provide until they can do their full job duties.

Physical/occupational therapy

If needed, a physical or occupational therapist can work with injured workers on the job site to progress them safely and keep them on the right track to a successful outcome. The return-to-work team incorporates the workers' physical demands related to their job tasks into therapy until they safely progress to full duty again. This helps quicken the recovery process as they preserve their daily routines. Your patients continue to work safely on their jobs and within their physical capacities, which helps lessen their fears of re-injury.

Benefits for you and your patients

This program accelerates the workers' healing processes because workers recover faster when they

return to work in a transitional-work role rather than remaining off work entirely. The workers experience a smoother transition back to regular duty and feel better about themselves leading to improved self-esteem. This happens in spite of their medical conditions.

Helps prevent secondary conditions

As your patient's physician, you play an important role on the return-to-work team. By actively promoting the benefits of early return to work, physicians and therapists who convey optimism, hope and reassurance to their patients help prevent secondary conditions such as weight gain and depression.

Setting time frames and expectations for recovery helps decrease the odds of your patient going down the road of chronic disability. Your active participation as a return-to-work team member may determine whether your injured worker gets *back to work*, *back to life*. For more information, [email](#) or call 614-995-0437.

Seeking transitional work plan developers; training is Oct. 14

Are you a BWC-certified case manager, physical or occupational therapist and enjoy working with employers at the job site? If yes, consider becoming a BWC-accredited transitional work grant program developer. Plan to attend a developer orientation class from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the Ohio Center for Occupational Safety and Health, 13430 Yarmouth Drive in Pickerington.

Ohio employers may apply for and receive a transitional work grant from BWC to pay up to 75 percent of the total cost the employer pays to the transitional work developer for covered services. Employers use their grant to develop a customized plan designed specifically for their companies. A [BWC-accredited transitional work developer](#) must develop these plans.

Requirements for developers

This progressive return-to-work program enables an employer's injured employee with temporary physical restrictions to transition back to his or her original job. Established criteria ensure a high level of consistency and quality among our certified providers. Thus, BWC-certified providers must have:

- ⋄ Documented transitional work experience;
- ⋄ Completed a one-day BWC workshop;
- ⋄ One of the certifications or licensures listed below.

Certifications or licensures

- ⋄ Certified rehabilitation counselor
- ⋄ Certified disability management specialist
- ⋄ Certified vocational evaluator
- ⋄ Certification for American Board of Vocational Experts
- ⋄ Certified case manager
- ⋄ Certified occupational health nurse
- ⋄ Certified rehabilitation registered nurse

- Licensed occupational therapist
- Licensed physical therapist

CEUs, application

Continuing education units are available for some certifications.

Interested providers must submit the **Transitional Work Developer's Application (TWD-115)** to **TWSupport@bwc.state.oh.us**. Once we complete the accreditation process, providers hold the distinction of being a BWC-accredited transitional work developer. We will include your name on the BWC-accredited developer list on our transitional work developer's information page.

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