

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



Sept. 22, 2015

## **BWC, MCOs, providers: Oct. 1 begin taking ICD-10 codes**

The national implementation for the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) is almost here – it starts Oct. 1. BWC and our managed care organizations (MCOs) will be ready to accept ICD-10s on First Report of Injury, Occupational Disease and Death (FROIs), other BWC forms with diagnosis codes and bills.

### **IVR changes**

The conversion to ICD-10 will impact those individuals using BWC's phone-based, interactive voice recognition (IVR) system to retrieve diagnosis codes. As of Oct. 1, 2015, this service will provide ICD-10 codes only for new claim allowances occurring that date or after. For claim allowances dating prior to Oct. 1, the IVR will provide only the ICD-9 code.

During the conversion, we expect an increase in calls, which could result in longer wait times for you and your staff members. For quicker service, we encourage you to use your e-account and log in to our website for your BWC claim needs.

### **Website info for ICD-9 to ICD-10 codes**

To help you with this transition for workers' compensation claims, please use our website, [www.bwc.ohio.gov](http://www.bwc.ohio.gov), to view the disease codes that we converted from ICD-9 to ICD-10. You can submit ICD-10 codes to BWC and the MCOs beginning Oct. 1. To use this site, you will need to use your BWC e-account or [create a new e-account](#) from our home page. For ease in coding, please designate appropriate personnel such as your office manager to have e-account privileges. Please view this [link](#) to follow the needed processes for sharing account privileges.

### **Code groupings**

BWC will only allow initial encounter ICD-10 codes in a workers' compensation claim. Subsequent office visits and condition sequelae codes are grouped with initial encounters so additional allowance requests are not needed. See the [ICD-10 groupings document](#). Please only submit ICD-10 codes on or after Oct. 1 whenever you are communicating with BWC (forms, bills, etc). For more information, review BWC's [ICD-10 implementation site](#) to find our [ICD-10 Implementation Guiding Principles fact sheet](#) and other information, or email BWC's [provider relations department](#).

## **Oct. 1: Website replaces EDA service**

As we discussed in the April edition of Provider eNews, BWC is taking steps to retire its electronic data access (EDA) service. The effective date for this change is Oct. 1.

### **Web enhancements**

In preparation, enhancements are being made to our website, [www.bwc.ohio.gov](http://www.bwc.ohio.gov), to enable it to ultimately serve as one of the main replacements to the EDA service. We incorporated these updates/changes.

- **MCO employer look-up** – If an employer policy is combined, we will show the policy it is combined into on the website.
- **Injured worker demographics** – We added the date of death (if available) and the injured worker's address effective dates.
- **Claim party contacts** – We added the injured worker's address effective date.
- **Claim status** – We added the claim filing date.

BWC wants to ensure you experience a smooth transition once EDA is no longer available. If you have any questions or concerns, please email [BWCEDASunsetAssistance@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:BWCEDASunsetAssistance@bwc.state.oh.us).

BWC's website will be your go-to-place for claim and employer information. However, keep in mind BWC evaluates what may be available and cross references it against what is legally permitted to be viewed by certain parties. [Create an e-account](#) today!

## **New, updated MEDCO-14 is available**

The [Physician's Report of Work Ability \(MEDCO-14\)](#) is a vital tool to help Ohio's injured workers safely return to work. The MEDCO-14 allows you to give a medical snapshot of the injured worker's

restrictions/capabilities at a specific point in time.

### **MEDCO-14's purpose**

The form's questions capture relevant data which enable BWC and the MCOs to:

- Understand the injured worker's ability or inability to perform any work as well as barriers to returning to work and his or her capabilities and restrictions when needed;
- Capture relevant information to make a determination on temporary total compensation;
- Understand the treatment plan and vocational issues that need to be addressed to help the injured worker return to the workforce;
- Determine what the provider may do to assist in lessening the injured worker's disability.

Each question serves a specific purpose that's reflected in its wording and the context referenced.

### **Responding to our customers**

On July 1, we posted a revised MEDCO-14 on BWC's website that replaces the previous MEDCO-14 we last updated in June 2012. Based on customer feedback, the BWC team immediately evaluated and addressed your concerns. We posted the modified MEDCO-14 online on Aug. 28. But, the form's official revision date is Aug. 21.

BWC will publish an additional informational tool that will aid providers in interpreting and completing the posted MEDCO-14.

### **Time frames to use the form**

The MEDCO-14 posted on Aug. 28, is the final update to be made with revisions. Therefore, all providers will have 60 days from Aug. 28, to fully convert to this new MEDCO-14 or its equivalent. All equivalent forms must within that 60-day time frame reflect at a minimum the data elements shown on the current MEDCO-14.

### **Form improvements**

Some of the form changes include:

1. In Section 1, if a provider submitted a previous MEDCO-14 and all the information remained the same, they may now check box 2 and move on to the form's signature box.
2. Updating certain sections and providing a check box in each section to indicate whether or not a section has updates.
3. Based on the provider's responses, other sections may be bypassed

because they are unnecessary to complete.

4. In section 3C we expanded the inquiry of “If the injured worker is taking prescribed...” to include “\*Perform other critical job tasks as defined by any source listed above in section 2.”

5. Streamlining and where necessary and clarifying form language.

#### **Nurse practitioners and physician assistants**

By revising the MEDCO-14, we are considering how to handle the increasing challenge of nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs) completing the form and using it as a basis for a temporary total disability benefit award for injured workers.

While NPs and PAs can treat our injured workers, and do complete the MEDCO-14, the statute and the rule require a physician to complete the MEDCO-14 that determines indemnity payments for injured workers. Therefore, when MEDCO-14s are completed and signed by a NP or a PA, this may result in a delay when awarding injured workers benefits.

BWC and the Industrial Commission of Ohio are reviewing how to address this issue.

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