

From: Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
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BWC eNews



February 2015

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BWC eBriefs

WATCH: One of our fraud cases was featured on CBS This Morning



We were pleased to be included in [CBS This Morning's story](#) about the ways investigators use social media to reveal insurance scams.

The BWC case referenced in the CBS story involves Jason Dross, of Celina, who [did heavy weightlifting while receiving workers' compensation benefits](#). Investigators found that he posted about it on social media.

Our fraud investigators check social media websites when looking into allegations. Information posted publicly online is collected as

Governor's Hill service office: Same location, new name, same great service

The Governor's Hill service office is now the [Cincinnati-Governor's Hill service office](#).

Originally named after the office park where it's located, the Cincinnati-Governor's Hill service office was one of three BWC offices in greater Cincinnati. Today, this office is the only one serving the greater Cincinnati area. It's still in the same location, but we've changed the name effective immediately to help you, our customers, better identify the office's location.

Prospective billing: Why it's important to remain current on your workers' comp premiums

Prospective billing starts in July 2015 for private employers, and BWC is reminding employers about the importance of staying current on workers' compensation premiums.

Paying your premiums in a timely manner will keep your workers' compensation coverage in effect, and it can save you from having to pay costly non-compliance fees as well as preserve your eligibility to participate in money-saving rating and discount programs.

In May, you'll receive your notice of estimated annual premium, which will be based on your reported payroll for July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. It is not a bill. Please review it for accuracy and contact BWC if you feel something is wrong with the estimate.

The first invoice you will receive will come in August (as part of the transition credit, BWC will make your June invoice payment on your behalf). You'll also need to report payroll for the January to June 2015 period, but BWC will pay that premium with the transition credit as well. Transition credits will not be granted to employers with lapsed coverage or employers who have not reported their January to June 2015 payroll.

BWC's switch to prospective billing also means new deadlines for rating plans and programs. The deadline for programs of Destination: Excellence is now the last business day of May.

A private employer timeline and other resources about prospective billing are available at [bwc.ohio.gov](#). BWC is also offering free seminars around Ohio to answer questions and provide details about prospective billing to private employers. To register, [click here](#).

Questions? Please contact [your local BWC customer service office](#), call 1-800-644-6292, or

evidence.

Monthly safety news

In this month's Safety Update, which can be accessed by [clicking here](#), you can learn how to keep your heart healthy at work and at home, and read the National Safety Council's report on the state of safety and the U.S. Department of Labor's tips for winter work.

[email BWC.](#)

Register for the 2015 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo

Registration is open for the **2015 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo** (OSC15), which will run from March 31 to April 2 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.



More than 6,000 people attended last year's event, which is hosted annually by BWC. It is the largest regional safety and health conference in the U.S.

Check out the Safety Congress experience in our new [YouTube video](#).

There's no charge for Ohio employers and their employees to attend the event. College students pursuing degrees in occupational health and safety may attend, too.

OSC15 aims to help Ohio employers prevent workplace injuries and achieve better outcomes for injured workers.

Professional certifications are offered for safety professionals, industrial hygienists, ergonomists, registered nurses, attorneys, rehabilitation, claims managers, disability managers, rehabilitation counselors, paramedics and other professions that accept IACET CEUs for certification maintenance.

In addition, educational tracks for physicians and environmental specialists as well as certified medical education for physicians and medical providers are also being offered this year.

A workers' compensation policy number is required to register. Students should call 1-800-644-6292 to register.

Register and learn about OSC15's educational sessions at [OhioSafetyCongress.com](#).

Safety Innovations finalists named

Five finalists have been chosen for BWC's fourth annual **Safety Innovations Competition**, which encourages and recognizes development of innovative solutions that help to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses.

Representatives from BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene reviewed and selected the finalists from among more than 50 entries. Applications were received from both private and public entities.

Here are the finalists:

Bemis North America, Fremont - Adjustable Height Packing Platforms for Thermoforming Lines
First Solar Inc., Perrysburg - Multiple Redesign Initiatives for Ergonomic Risk Reduction in Interlayer Roll Changing Tasks
FORJAK Industrial, Columbus - The Better, Faster Finish Painting System
Harmony Systems & Service Inc., Piqua - Skid Loader to Assembly Line
Mansfield Engineered Components, Mansfield - Spring Puller.

These finalists will display their innovations at the **2015 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo** for a chance to win up to \$7,000.

New first fill prescription rule in effect

A new rule allows for the immediate fill of necessary medications related to new workplace injuries. The first fill rule gives BWC the ability to care for injured workers more quickly, even before formally approving claims.

The rule, approved late last year by BWC's Board of Directors and the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review, became effective Feb. 1. A 1955 statute previously restricted BWC from allowing this change, but recent legislation proposed by BWC allowed for the newly approved first fill rule to develop.

Medication covered under this new rule must be for a period of 10 days or less at the most commonly prescribed dosing schedule. A rule **appendix** lists the medications and maximum quantities that may be dispensed before a claim determination is made. However, BWC may with prior authorization reimburse the first fill of medications not on the list in cases of medical necessity.

Pharmacy providers will be reimbursed by BWC for dispensing the first fill of medications as described in BWC's **outpatient medication rule**. The prescriber or their agent must write "work-related injury" on and sign the prescription blank. Pharmacists and pharmacy interns are permitted to write the phrase and sign telephone prescriptions.

In cases where a prescription is filled for an injured worker of a state fund employer, but the claim is ultimately denied by BWC, the medication payment will be charged to BWC's surplus fund account and not to the employer associated with the disallowed claim.

For questions related to the new first fill rule, email **BWC's pharmacy department**.

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Ohio

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