

From: BWC - Do Not Reply
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2011 12:34 PM
To: BWC e-communications
Subject: BWC e-news – July 2011



[Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation](#) | [Injured Workers](#) | [Employers](#) | [Safety Services](#) | [Medical Providers](#) | [Contact](#)



BWC e-news – July 2011

[BWC welcomes two workers' comp veterans to leadership team](#)

BWC Administrator/CEO Stephen Buehrer announced this week the addition of two veteran workers' compensation and insurance industry professionals to leadership roles. Dale Hamilton will serve as Chief Operating Officer and Kevin Abrams will head BWC's Employer Services Division.

"Dale and Kevin will both bring an impressive amount of experience in workers' compensation," said Buehrer. "Dale's background in the private sector and at BWC has given him a wide-ranging understanding of insurance operations as well as the distinct needs of BWC necessary to provide strong leadership. As a BWC alum and recent member of the Industrial Commission, Kevin is extremely knowledgeable of the system and well prepared to guide the development of policy that will best serve the needs of Ohio employers."

Hamilton is former head of BWC's Audit Department and previously served as a COO for Blue Cross, as well as several leadership roles for Nationwide Insurance and its affiliates. Abrams most recently served as commissioner for the Industrial Commission of Ohio, and previously was assistant law director for BWC from 1988 to 2005.

[BWC preparing for change to coding system used to process claims](#)

Changes are under way to the diagnostic coding system BWC uses in the processing of claims. BWC will join the general health industry in upgrading from the current International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) to the new ICD-10-CM system on Oct. 1, 2013. BWC has already begun a multi-phase project in anticipation of the extensive work needed to make the conversion.

BWC uses ICD-9-CM codes to identify the type and nature of injuries, and to determine what medical treatment is appropriate. These codes are fundamental in driving and

Inside this edition:

[BWC welcomes two workers' comp veterans to leadership team](#)

[BWC preparing for change to coding system used to process claims](#)

[Safety Council deadline approaching](#)

[BWC is now on Twitter and Facebook](#)

addressing claims issues, disputes and provider reimbursements. BWC's MIRA II reserving system also uses ICD-9-CM codes as the primary cost driver when predicting a claim's reserve.

"We use the ICD-9-CM coding system in virtually all of our work practices, business flows and IT systems," said Interim Chief of Medical Services & Compliance Freddie Johnson. "ICD-10-CM will radically change the way we do injury coding and will require a significant effort to implement."

You can learn more about the national conversion to ICD-10 from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Watch for more news about the BWC's conversion in upcoming editions of E-News.

Safety Council deadline approaching

A recent expansion of the Safety Council Rebate Program is providing nearly 100,000 Ohio employers a new opportunity to reduce their overall premium costs - but the deadline to apply is fast approaching. Ohio employers, including those in the group-experience rating program, have until July 31 to join one of [81 BWC-sponsored safety councils](#) and earn rebates on their workers' compensation premiums for active participation and reduced workplace injuries.

Eligible employers can earn a 2-percent rebate for attending a specific number of safety council meetings and an additional 2 percent for demonstrating a reduction in the frequency and/or severity of workplace incidents. New this year, BWC Administrator/CEO Stephen Buehrer has announced that unlike previous years, group-experience-rating program employers who meet program requirements can earn the 2-percent performance bonus rebate.

To view the eligibility requirements for the fiscal year 2012 rebate, [click here](#).

BWC is now on Twitter and Facebook

You can now access the latest updates and information from BWC on Twitter and Facebook. BWC's Twitter account (<http://twitter.com/ohiobwc>) will highlight agency activities, news and information, and distribute updates important to employers, injured workers, medical providers, safety professionals and Ohio's entire workers' comp community.

The Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ohiobwcfraud) will focus on the bureau's fraud investigation efforts. The BWC Special Investigations Division will use the page in their efforts to deter, detect, investigate, and prosecute workers' compensation fraud. It includes news on recent investigatory action, a most-wanted section and a link to report fraud.

Please take a moment to [forward this email](#) to other managers in your organization and to your colleagues who may find it of value.

To opt-out of receiving future promotional e-mail from OBWC please [click here](#).

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
30 W. Spring St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215-2256