

OAC 4123-6-34: Payment for Treatment of Concussion Injuries (Effective Jan. 1, 2020)

**BWC's Medical and Health Services Division
Webinar**

Nov. 26, 2019

Outline

- Opportunity
- Process
- Output

Opportunity

- Provide more timely, appropriate services for treatment of injuries covered by this rule.
- Two challenging scenarios:
 1. Requests for services when “concussion” is not allowed.
 2. Requests for seemingly unrelated services when “concussion” is allowed.

Opportunity - Examples

- 1. Allowed condition:** “laceration to scalp.”
Requested service: “neuropsychology eval.”
- 2. Allowed condition:** “concussion without loss of consciousness.”
Requested service: “prism eyeglasses.”

Process - HCQAAC

- *Concussion Subcommittee* of the Healthcare Quality Assurance Advisory Committee of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (HCQAAC)
- Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 4123-6-22

Process - Subcommittee

- Two dually board-certified emergency medicine/occupational medicine/physical medicine and rehabilitation (PMR) M.D.'s.
- One chiropractor certified in neurology.
- One PMR specialist in head injuries.

Process – Subcommittee

- One neuropsychologist specializing in the evaluation and treatment of concussions.
- Ohio Industrial Commission Chief Medical Advisor.
- Managed care organization (MCO) medical directors' representative.

Process - BWC support

- Chief Medical Officer
- Chief of Medical Services
- Director of Medical Projects
- Director of Nursing

Process - BWC support

- Legal staff
- Clinical performance research coordinator
- Medical intern
- Robust bibliography of over 80 medical reference documents

Output - Consensus

- Early intervention in Ohio's work-related concussions reduces the duration of disability.
- There is variability in the clinical manifestation of concussion (those would be the physical signs, symptoms, and recovery trajectory).

Output - Consensus

- There is variability in the medical coding system for head injuries. (ICD9-14,000; ICD10-70,000)
 - 2,600 codes in which concussion could have occurred.
 - 790 codes in which brain injury most likely did occur.
 - Four codes where “concussion” is the word used to describe the injury.

Output - Consensus

- There is an opportunity to improve outcomes for injured workers with allowed claims related to concussions.
- To do so, we will create a rule that will provide the system with an understanding of what services are appropriate early in the claim to treat the clinical manifestations of these injuries.

Output - Consensus

- This rule governs BWC's reimbursement for services in an allowed claim related to concussions.
- This is a rule, not a guideline, and so it supersedes clinical guidelines.

Output - Components of OAC 4123-6-34

In general, what type of injury would require services according to this rule?

1. Mechanism of injury (MOI)
2. Clinical manifestations (CM)

Output - Components

What are the MOI's characteristics in those injuries which would require these services?

- External force.
- Bump or blow to the head.
- Jolt to the body.
- Brain bounces around in the skull.
- Injury to cells is often chemical, so imaging may be negative.

Output - Components

What are the general characteristics of the CM?

- *Any* alteration in mental state.
- *Any* loss of consciousness.
- *Any* retrograde amnesia.
- Limited severity.
- “A concussion may involve different symptoms, clinical profiles and subtypes, and different recovery trajectories, which may be influenced by a variety of risk factors.”

Definitions

Clinical manifestations (CMs): Signs or symptoms associated with an illness or injury.

Clinical domains (CDs): Groupings of clinical manifestations by body part or body system.

Output - Eight Clinical Domains (CDs)

- Anxiety and mood
- Vestibular
- Ocular
- Sleep
- Cervical
- Cognitive fatigue
- Headache
- Cognitive impairment

Output - Specific CMs

- **Anxiety and mood:** Ruminating thoughts, difficulty concentrating, hypervigilance, fastidiousness.
- **Vestibular:** Impaired balance and equilibrium, dizziness, nausea, environmental sensitivity.

Output - Specific CMs

- **Ocular:** Impaired vision and visual tracking, impaired comprehension, trouble focusing, distractibility.
- **Sleep:** Trouble falling asleep or sleeping more or less than usual.

Output - Specific CMs

- **Cervical:** Neck pain, stiffness, reduced range of motion.
- **Cognitive fatigue:** Impaired thinking abilities, feeling slow or "one step behind", physical and mental fatigue, general headache, or sleep disturbance.

Output - Specific CMs

- **Headache (migraine, cervicogenic, and tension headache):** Variable and intermittent severe headache, nausea, photosensitivity, vestibular migraine.
- **Cognitive impairment:** Impairment in attention, memory, executive function, language processing, visual perception, processing.

Output - Eight Clinical Domains (CMs)

- Anxiety and mood
- Vestibular
- Ocular
- Sleep
- Cervical
- Cognitive fatigue
- Headache
- Cognitive impairment

What are reasonable time frames for evaluation and treatment?

- Signs or symptoms related to the clinical domains are manifest within **six weeks** of the date of injury.
- Allows for authorization of medical treatment reimbursement requests relating to these clinical domains submitted within **six months** from the date of injury, for treatment not to exceed **six months** from the date of injury.

Output: Summary

- Mechanism of injury consistent with concussion.
- Clinical manifestations within six weeks.
- Services authorized in an allowed claim for up to six months.

Output: Summary

- Medical treatment must be medically necessary and appropriate and reasonably related to the treatment of concussion, based on the medical evidence. (Miller)
- Right to appeal.
- If signs and symptoms still manifest and require ongoing treatment beyond six months, additional allowances may be requested.

Questions

- Bwcprovidercontactcenter@bwc.state.oh.us

Looking for reminders, updates, tips and breaking news on workers' compensation?

Follow us on social media!



facebook.com/OhioBureauofWorkersCompensation
facebook.com/ohiobwcfraud



linkedin.com/company/ohio-bwcOhio BWC (Official)



Youtube.com/bwcoho



twitter.com/ohiobwc
twitter.com/ohiobwcfraud



ohiobwcblog.wordpress.com
ohiobwcfraud.wordpress.com