

2013 BWC Policy Alert

2013 BWC Policy Clarification

Date: Jan. 30, 2013

Clarification # 1 – 2013-01

The use of BWC ergonomists when the service is requested on a *Physician's Request for Medical Service or Recommendation for Additional Conditions for Industrial Injury or Occupational Disease (C-9)* or a vocational rehabilitation plan.

Purpose

This BWC Policy Alert clarifies when it is appropriate to use the professional services of BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene (DSH) ergonomists. In addition, it explains when providers should use an ergonomist enrolled and or certified through the BWC vocational rehabilitation fee schedule.

Issue

Some of DSH's ergonomists provide services for employers such as an ergonomic study and implementation or a job analysis as requested through an MCO approved C-9 or vocational rehab plan. Currently, only a portion of DSH's ergonomists maintain the requisite credentials for BWC provider certification.

MCOs must follow the *MCO Policy Reference Guide* when approving services for injured workers. The policy guide states that a provider of ergonomic services must possess one of 10 identified certifications or licensures to provide these services for injured workers in the BWC system. So when an MCO receives a request to authorize one of these services, it must use an enrolled or certified ergonomist.

Conclusion

According to OAC 4123-18-09, appendix, job modifications of more than \$5,000 are subject to review by a qualified BWC safety professional. This includes, but is not limited to, a BWC ergonomist, industrial hygienist or safety consultant) prior to authorization.

Reference Policy: *MCO Policy Reference Guide*, Chapter 4 – Ergonomic Study and Ergonomic Implementation; Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 4123-18-09, Appendix A.

Location: <http://www.ohiobwc.com/downloads/brochureware/publications/MPRGch4.pdf>;
<http://www.ohiobwc.com/provider/services/FeeSchedules.asp>