

BWC Policy Alert: Post-Acute COVID-19 Syndrome Testing

Policy Alert: #2020-06

December 1, 2020

As the global COVID-19 pandemic continues, the medical community continues to evaluate the potential long-term health effects caused after being positive for COVID-19. It is not yet known if new issues may be presented, or the level of impact on any pre-existing conditions. In response to questions regarding follow-up testing and treatment of injured workers with COVID-19 as an allowed condition, BWC provides the following clarification for applicable testing for Post-acute COVID-19 Syndrome, also referred to as post-COVID syndrome or “Long COVID”:

Currently there are no FDA approved treatments for post-acute COVID-19 syndrome. However, as the medical understanding of the virus advances, the medical literature will identify not only the potential for lingering health effects, but also treatment regimens. When an injured worker has COVID-19 allowed in the claim, a provider may request authorization for follow-up diagnostic testing or applicable treatment for post-acute COVID-19 syndrome.

Each of the following is required:

- The injured worker is exhibiting symptoms consistent with medical literature references to post-acute COVID-19 syndrome (post COVID, Long COVID, etc.).
- The testing or treatment is related to the allowed condition of COVID-19.
- The testing or treatment is supported by the medical literature regarding COVID-19 and post-acute COVID-19 syndrome.