

From: Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
[donotreply=bwc.state.oh.us@cmail5.com] on behalf of Ohio Bureau
of Workers' Compensation [donotreply@bwc.state.oh.us]
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Provider eNews - August 2013

Remain-at-work services keep the worker safely on the job

The number seven is often not so lucky for injured workers and their employers. Studies show the longer an injured worker is off the job, the less likely he or she is to return to work.

While there are engagement strategies designed to help minimize an injured worker's greater than seven-day absence from work, there are other strategies which can help you proactively keep injured workers at work or keep absences from progressing beyond seven days.

Remain at work (RAW) services are designed to help keep injured workers safely at work. In addition, RAW services are specifically designed for each injured worker. They reflect appropriate accommodations that allow the injured worker to remain productive while facilitating healing.

Anyone - including you - may refer your patient for these specialized services. You may access these services as you do other services by contacting the injured worker's managed care organization (MCO).

Types of services

- Transitional work with a physical/occupational therapist if it focuses on job progression and is available on site
- An ergonomic study and/or implementation
- A functional capacity evaluation
- On-site physical and/or occupational therapy

Other RAW services may include physical reconditioning, gradual return to work, on-

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the-job training, job modification, and obtaining tools and equipment for the injured worker.

Together with your patient's employer, we can customize the services for your injured worker's needs and abilities. As you can see, there is a comprehensive list of services available to you for your patient's benefit. For more information, contact the injured worker's MCO.

Seeking transitional work plan developers

Are you a BWC-certified case manager, physical or occupational therapist and enjoy working with employers at the job site? If yes, consider becoming a BWC-accredited transitional work grant program developer.

Since July 7, 2012, Ohio employers have been able to apply for and receive a transitional work grant from BWC. Employers use these grants to develop a customized plan designed specifically for their company. A BWC-accredited transitional work developer must develop these plans. This progressive return-to-work program enables an employer's injured employee with temporary physical restrictions to transition back to his or her original job. This is usually within a determined period.

Established criteria ensure a high level of consistency and quality among our certified providers. Thus, BWC-certified providers must have:

- Documented transitional work experience;
 - Completed a one-day BWC workshop;
 - One of the certifications or licensures listed below.
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- Certified rehabilitation counselor
 - Certified disability management specialist
 - Certified vocational evaluator
 - Certification for American Board of Vocational Experts
 - Certified case manager
 - Certified occupational health nurse
 - Certified rehabilitation registered nurse
 - Licensed occupational therapist
 - Licensed physical therapist

Interested providers must submit the [Transitional Work Developer's Application \(TWD-115\)](#) to BWC. We will email interested providers BWC training opportunities.

In addition, we will post announcements about these training sessions on Twitter. Once we complete the accreditation process, we will include your name on the BWC-accredited developer list on our [transitional work developers](#) information page.

Did you know?

In 2012, health-care providers treated approximately 228,000 Ohio injured workers.

For this work, BWC reimbursed them nearly \$725 million.

Your services help BWC create a superior system of quality health care. They minimize the physical, emotional and financial impacts of a work-related injury or illness.

BWC's benefit plan ensures injured workers have access to high-quality medical care and vocational rehabilitation services. In addition, a competitive fee schedule facilitates the maintenance and enhancement of an appropriate medical/vocational provider network.

The Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) details BWC's five fee schedules and reimbursement methodologies. The five schedules are ambulatory surgery center, hospital inpatient, hospital outpatient, professional provider medical services and vocational rehabilitation. BWC updates these rules regularly to keep up with industry standards and to ensure providers receive fair compensation.

To develop proposed modifications, BWC:

- Conducts analyses of our medical bill and injured worker claims data;
- Reviews changes in the industry such as Medicare's reimbursement rules;
- Assesses other issues that may impact access to quality health-care services.

Your Involvement is vital

Your feedback is another important aspect of our fee schedule and reimbursement methodology updates. We share our proposed rules with all our stakeholders, including health-care providers. We strongly encourage you to submit your thoughts and ideas. We carefully review all feedback and consider additional changes before presenting the final proposed rules to BWC's Board of Directors. If approved, the rule then follows the procedures for OAC changes.

During the next several months, please look for proposed updates to all five fee schedules and reimbursement methodologies. Sign up to receive email notifications of proposed rule changes by emailing your contact information to BWC's [provider relations department](#).

You also can keep current and view past, present and proposed [fee schedules](#) and reimbursement methodologies on [ohiobwc.com](#). Follow the link, and then click on "I accept the terms of the above agreement and want to view, download and print a copy of the fee schedule."

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

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