

From: Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
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BWC Provider eNews



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First fill rule effective Feb. 1: Allows for immediate fill of necessary medications for new injuries

A new rule approved by the BWC Board of Directors will allow BWC to provide care to injured workers more quickly following an injury. The **first fill rule** will ensure injured workers receive necessary medications while BWC determines the status of their claims.

The new rule details the circumstances under which BWC will reimburse injured workers for the first fill of prescription drugs for medical conditions identified in an application for workers' compensation benefits prior to the date BWC issues an initial claim determination order.

When first fill applies

- The new rule includes an [appendix](#), which constitutes the complete list of medications and the maximum quantity of such medications BWC has approved for reimbursement for first fill prior to issuing an initial claim determination order. However, in cases of medical necessity supported by clinical documentation and evidence of need, BWC may, with prior authorization, reimburse for the first fill of medications listed in the appendix to BWC's formulary rule, but not listed in the appendix to the first fill rule.
- Approval for reimbursement of medications under the first fill program will be for a period of 10 days or less, at the most commonly prescribed dosing schedule. BWC will not approve refills.
- Approval for reimbursement of medications under the first fill program will be limited to one drug, per therapeutic drug class listed in the appendix to the rule.
- Extemporaneous compounded prescriptions are not eligible for reimbursement under the first fill program.
- BWC will reimburse pharmacy providers for dispensing the first fill of medications in the manner described in BWC's [outpatient medication rule](#). This applies if the prescriber or their agent has written "work-related injury" on and signed the prescription blank. A pharmacist or pharmacy intern who receives a telephone prescription may also write and sign the phrase on the prescription.
- Consider these circumstances. An employee is working for a state-fund employer who pays

assessments into the surplus fund account. The employee files a claim in which the first fill of outpatient medication is reimbursed based on the [rule](#). However, the claim is ultimately disallowed in a final administrative or judicial order. The first fill payment then is charged to the surplus fund account and not charged to the employer.

For more information, [email](#) BWC's pharmacy department.

New provider education track coming to 2015 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the [2015 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo](#). This year's safety congress will be held March 31 to April 2 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. For the first time, we're planning a full day of workers' compensation treatment education specifically for physicians to enhance their BWC knowledge base on Thursday, April 2.

Education topics include:

- Opioids for chronic non-cancer pain;
- Putting Official Disability Guidelines™ to work for your practice;
- Physical and psychological barriers to return to work;
- Prevention and control of low back disorders;
- Strategic communications for medical providers – how to achieve results;
- Appropriate use of American Medical Association, Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment for Physical and Psychological Conditions;
- An overview of shoulder injuries.

Register today

Register and search for sessions of interest [here](#). You will need your workers' compensation policy number and your National Provider Identifier (NPI) number to register. For additional information, read future issues of Provider eNews.

Be sure to join us!

Professional provider fee schedule update

The new fee schedule for professional provider medical services is now effective. This schedule includes updates to medical and provider service rates approved last October. It also appropriately recognizes and reflects selected 2015 reimbursement code changes.

This fee schedule includes physician and medical/rehabilitation ancillary services. Please view this and other BWC fee schedules on our [website](#). Click to accept the terms and view a copy of the fee schedule.

If you have questions, call 1-800-644-6292, and listen to the options.

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

Questions? Call 1-800-644-6292
www.bwc.ohio.gov