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**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 3:23 PM  
**To:** BWC BWC - Do Not Reply  
**Subject:** BWC Provider eNews - July 2012



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## BWC Provider eNews - July 2012

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Welcome to BWC's first edition of Provider eNews! This online newsletter keeps you up to date on the latest workers' compensation news for Ohio's health-care providers. You are an important team player in the workers' compensation process in helping injured workers remain and/or return to work for a better quality of life at work and at home. We will release the newsletter at least quarterly, perhaps more often, to give you just in time information to assist you in working with Ohio's injured workers.

We are here for you, so let us know your questions and any suggestions you have for news items by emailing [feedback.medical@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:feedback.medical@bwc.state.oh.us). We look forward to continuing to partner with you.

### [New chief medical officer offers physical medicine, rehab and pain-management expertise](#)

When workers get injured, their lives can turn upside down in a matter of seconds. That's why BWC's Chief Medical Officer Stephen Woods, M.D., now leads our medical efforts to help Ohio's injured workers return to work. He provides direction in the development of medical policy and oversight for all medical components of BWC by acting on your behalf.

"I want to reach a larger patient base than I see in my office as a physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R or physiatry) specialist," says Dr. Woods. "By working at BWC, I can help more injured workers return to work as soon as possible with the best care available for them."

"Timely care and return to work can prevent the many social issues that come into play after a work-related injury. Many times workers feel isolated when they aren't able to go to work, and no one is advocating for them. BWC can and is making a difference."

Following his residency at The Ohio State University, he completed a one-year

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interventional spine and sports medicine fellowship in Santa Barbara, CA. Dr. Woods brings varied medical experience to his position. He is also a clinical assistant professor with OSU's Wexner Medical Center Department of PM&R, and he is a spine care consultant for OSU's Department of Athletics. He formerly was co-medical director of the OSU Comprehensive Spine Center and a physician consultant conducting case reviews for BWC.

## Health-care providers play a key role in return-to-work efforts

By working with accident and trauma victims, BWC's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Stephen Woods has a different view on life as do many of our health-care providers. He wants BWC's provider community to be supported in managing their patients. "I know how vulnerable we are," he explains. "Things can unravel very quickly, so timely medical intervention and coordination means everything in a worker's comp injury. Providers must know they are not alone in this endeavor."

As a health-care provider, you are essential in the return-to-work process, says Dr. Woods "You lay the framework for helping a worker with this transition. Many resources are available to assist your efforts in caring for injured workers we realize you need to know where and when to get help. In upcoming Provider eNews issues, we'll feature some of these resources, and reach out with information to help you with your patient's return to work."

## Transitional work developers needed for TW Grants Program that began July 1

Consider being a transitional work developer for our new and improved Transitional Work Grants program if you are a BWC certified:

- Physical and/or occupational therapist;
- Vocational rehabilitation case manager.

After participating in a BWC training session, accredited developers will design transitional work programs for employers.

Employers began applying for the grants July 1 on our website at <http://www.ohiobwc.com/employer/programs/safety/WellnessGrants.asp>.

For more information, email [twsupport@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:twsupport@bwc.state.oh.us), or call 1-800-OHIOBWC, press options 0, 3, 0.

## BWC streamlines MEDCO-14, C-84 forms with August implementation coming

To help our return-to-work focus, we are streamlining two forms, Physicians Report of Work Ability (MEDCO-14) and the Request for Temporary Total Compensation (C-84). This change will allow providers to relay all the necessary information to BWC at once instead of using two separate forms. At this time, health-care providers and

injured workers have to complete the C-84. In addition, providers complete the MEDCO- 14 to relay the worker's abilities. Effective Aug. 17, the provider will complete only the MEDCO-14 form (or equivalent), and the injured worker will complete the C-84.

Beginning Aug. 17, you will need to use the .pdf version that will be available at [ohiobwc.com](http://ohiobwc.com). We will provide an interactive version at a later date.

If you have questions about this process or form changes, please contact Tammie Mihaly of BWC's provider relations at 614-728-5726.

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

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