

**From:** Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation  
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July 2018



## Visit BWC's booth at the Ohio State Fair, July 25 – Aug. 5

Don't forget to visit us at the fair with our newly expanded booth in exhibit space 02 in the Bricker Marketplace Building. Take time to test your skill at our safety and health Plinko game and get information about our latest initiatives.

For example, you'll learn more about our latest [safety campaign](#) and our [Better You, Better Ohio!™](#) health and wellness program for employers with less than 50 employees in high-risk industries such as health care. BWC representatives are available to answer your questions at the booth.

### What's our message?

Whether at work or at home, we want you to consider that you're in control of your own safety and health. You're the first line of defense to prevent injuries that could cause you to miss work or keep you from your normal day-to-day activities. Learn how to prevent slips, trips, falls, overexertions and driving-related accidents, which account for approximately 60 percent of serious BWC claims each year.

Help us keep Ohio safe and healthy. We look forward to seeing you at the Ohio State Fair! You don't want to miss it.

## Informational reminders to help save you time, effort

If you are a treating provider, here are tips about areas of required information and online resources that may assist you and your office staff with workers' compensation claims for your patients.

### ***Physician's Report of Work Ability (MEDCO-14)***

We require every provider treating an injured worker to submit a [MEDCO-14](#) each time he or she sees the injured worker. This is true unless the Ohio Industrial Commission awarded the worker permanent total disability, or the worker returned to work without restrictions within seven days of the injury.

Other situations where a provider must complete a MEDCO-14 include when the worker again has restrictions after the provider releases him or her to full duty. This includes psychological service providers.

### **Online videos, fact sheets**

To help you with your questions about sections of the MEDCO-14, you may view these [online videos](#). The videos last from one to three minutes. They help with form-section completion. A detailed job aid with examples is available on our provider publications list.

In addition, fact sheets are available for topics such as:

- Workers' compensation and HIPAA.
- How a medical provider recommends an additional condition.
- BWC certification, recertification and provider record maintenance.
- Claim reactivation and others.

To view these materials, see our website's [provider publications](#) section.

## ***Provider Billing and Reimbursement Manual Second Quarterly Update released***

Our second quarterly release is now available for the [Provider Billing and Reimbursement Manual](#) (BRM). View the section titled New/Revised/Updated Policies for these policy updates.

- Chronic Pain Management Programs
- Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Coverage
- Payment for Lumbar Fusion Surgery

## **Information**

To read the BRM, you need to accept the statement on the bottom of the opening page. In addition, each release has a highlights page outlining the quarter's revisions.

If you have questions, email them to [feedback.medical@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:feedback.medical@bwc.state.oh.us).

## **Vocational rehabilitation – understanding services provided at the work site**

In [last month's](#) *Provider eNews*, we discussed options for early vocational rehabilitation intervention for your patients who are injured workers. Now, we are informing you about a variety of work-site services. A vocational rehabilitation case manager usually coordinates these services.

### **Job analysis**

A job analysis evaluates and identifies the essential job functions and describes the physical demands and work conditions required to perform the job. A job analysis also includes information about the tools and equipment used for the job. This service may help determine if your patient is ready to safely resume regular job duties or if your patient needs a light-duty release while continuing to heal.

### **Ergonomic study**

An ergonomic study evaluates the fit between the injured worker and the job. An ergonomic study assesses the job's risks and recommends job modifications or tools and equipment. If your patient has an ongoing limitation or has a high risk of re-injury, this service may identify ways to make the job safer.

### **Tools and equipment**

Supply tools and equipment that are necessary for the injured worker to return to work (RTW) or remain at work. This service may be a part of the rehabilitation plan. It may help in obtaining items not typically supplied by the employer. Tools and equipment may address limitations in performing essential tasks, reduce the physical stress or strain on a body part or modify the way an injured worker typically performs a task. Examples include speech-recognition software, one-handed keyboard, ergonomic chair or seat, large grip tools, anti-fatigue items, etc. Tools and equipment are not medical supplies.

### **Job modification**

A job modification adapts the employer's work environment to meet the injured worker's

physical needs. This could include the removal or alteration of physical barriers that prohibit a worker from performing the job's essential functions and prevent the worker from returning to work or maintaining current employment. To ensure the modification meets the needs for safe job performance, coordination between the employer, provider, injured worker, managed care organization (MCO) and BWC is essential. An ergonomic study may recommend needed job modifications.

### **Requesting vocational rehabilitation services**

In addition to the services above, we offer other specialized vocational rehabilitation options for injured workers with lost-time claims. These may include job retention and RTW services. As soon as you know the worker needs help in returning to work, and the worker is medically stable, request vocational rehabilitation services.

Vocational services may help ensure a safe RTW for your patient. You can access vocational rehabilitation services by making a referral to the worker's [MCO](#). To make the referral, use the [Physician's Report of Work Ability \(MEDCO-14\)](#) or the [Request for Medical Service Reimbursement or Recommendation for Additional Conditions for Industrial Injury or Occupational Disease \(C-9\)](#).

### **For more information**

If you have questions, visit the [vocational rehabilitation](#) page of our website. You may also call 1-800-644-6292, option 0-3-0, and ask for the rehab policy unit or send an [email](#).



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Questions? Call 1-800-644-6292  
or visit us on the web [www.bwc.ohio.gov](http://www.bwc.ohio.gov)



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