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Provider eNews - June 2013

New catastrophic pilot program to enhance catastrophic-injury outcomes

Earlier this year, BWC introduced a new catastrophic claims-management pilot program. The vendor supporting this pilot is Paradigm Outcomes Management. Paradigm specializes in managing medically complex cases such as:

- Spinal cord and brain injuries;
- Multiple trauma injuries;
- Severe burns and major extremity amputations.

Under its model, an injury-management team led by a physician specialist supportively drives and directs the injured worker's medical care.

Paradigm and BWC understand that positive outcomes increase with strong relationships with hospitals and physicians. These relationships include ancillary providers such as durable medical equipment suppliers, home health agencies and others.

Paradigm is already familiar with Ohio's highly-skilled medical community. Given that knowledge, Paradigm being reflective of BWC's position, plans to develop and enhance relationships with all Ohio hospitals and critical-care providers as it serves BWC's injured workers.

To move the injured worker along the healing continuum, Paradigm will coordinate and collaborate with you and its multidisciplinary team. Paradigm will be an on-site advocate for injured workers with catastrophic injuries.

For each catastrophic injury of an Ohio worker – anywhere in the country -- Paradigm

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provides a nurse case manager on-site for daily case monitoring, supporting the family and coordinating care with the team of health-care providers. That case manager also will provide frequent reports to the employer, BWC, the managed care organization (MCO) and Paradigm's injury-management team.

For more information or if you have questions, email BWC's Nurse Director [Mary Charney](#).

Formulary changes include sedative hypnotic and sleep aid agents

BWC is revising its formulary by amending coverage in three drug classes and by updating the prior authorization requirements for an additional 88 drug classes. The three classes with changes are sedative hypnotic agents, anti-anxiety drugs and skeletal muscle relaxants.

The pharmacy and therapeutics committee proposed these changes after considering current literature, accepted treatment guidelines and best clinical practices. It also reviewed information from the Federal Drug Administration and drug manufacturers.

We changed coverage of sedative hypnotic agents to reduce the use of older sleep aids when newer and safer medications are available. We streamlined the formulary selections in this drug class by removing products that were more expensive therapeutic duplications of other agents.

In addition, we reviewed the anti-anxiety drugs. We also implemented limitations to the maximum daily dose based on information from the Ohio Department of Health's 2012 report about Ohio's drug-related deaths. These drugs were the most frequently occurring second drug associated with opiate-related deaths.

Comparing the incidence of drug-related deaths among injured workers with that of the general population revealed the risk for a drug-related death for an injured worker is more than three times that of the general population.

We also established a second tier of coverage in the skeletal muscle relaxant drug class for one very expensive drug. This drug demonstrated no clear cut therapeutic advantage over less expensive agents in the class.

You can view details about the proposed changes, effective Oct. 1, 2013, on ohiobwc.com on the [Pharmacy benefits program page](#).

The current formulary is also available on ohiobwc.com and as a mobile application from [Epocrates Inc.](#)

For more information or if you have questions, email BWC's Pharmacy Program Director [John Hanna](#).

Did you know?

As BWC medical providers, you play an important role in helping injured workers heal and return to duties they can perform within their workplaces. We, at BWC, emphasize that important role given the continuing need for quality care of our Ohio workers. While we have during the past two years seen moderate success with some of our initiatives, there is still more to do.

Below are 2012 Ohio injured workers' facts that exemplify why our partnership with you, our service providers, is so important. Every month 868 new injured workers receive temporary total (TT) compensation benefits as a result of a workplace injuries and/or occupational disease and are not able to return to their original jobs.

- In total, there were 26,188 injured workers who received TT benefits during the year.
- For 9,528 injured workers their actual dates of injury are more than one year ago.
- The total number of injured workers declared permanently and totally disabled every month and who likely will never return to work is 81.
- Medical benefits paid in 2012 are more than \$726 million.

These numbers say we continue to have a lot of work to do. For BWC, failing to return injured workers, whenever possible, to the lives they enjoyed before an injury is not acceptable. We look forward to working together in helping to improve our injured workers' future outcomes. Look for additional facts in upcoming Provider eNews editions.

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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