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**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2013 1:30 PM  
**To:** Monder, Kim  
**Subject:** Provider eNews - March 2013



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## Provider eNews - March 2013

### Ohio Safety Congress & Expo 2013 offers free registration, CEUs; largest in Midwest

Did you know you may receive free continuing education units (CEUs) just for attending [BWC's 2013 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo](#)? The event takes place April 9 through April 11 at the Columbus Convention Center. Our safety congress is the largest safety-and health-related expo in the Midwest offering sessions on return-to-work, pain medications and medical-management strategies. More than 200 vendors will provide safety and health/workers' compensation solutions.

Registration is free, and many of the courses offer [CEUs](#). Go to [ohiobwc.com](#) to view a list of the [more than 150 courses and workshops](#), and then register [here](#). Registered nurses, emergency medical services/first responders, rehabilitation counselors and nursing home administrator groups are only some of the groups that may receive CEU credits.

A new feature this year is a [digital book](#) with course listings appropriate for specific industries.

### Opioid book, free CME credits available to high-level prescribers

BWC sent nearly 3,000 copies of Responsible Opioid Prescribing™: A Clinician's Guide to our most active prescribing physicians. This is part of our effort to raise awareness of the dangers in over-prescribing opioid analgesics for injured workers.

After reading the book, the physicians can complete 7.25 free continuing medical education (CME) hours.

In a letter that accompanies the book, Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer and Chief

#### Inside this edition:

Ohio Safety Congress & Expo 2013 offers free registration, CEUs; largest in Midwest

Opioid book, free CME credits available to high-level prescribers

OARRS registration to be required; coverage changes for compounded drugs

Medical Officer Stephen T. Woods, M.D., note that more than 60 Ohio injured workers in the high-opiate use category died. This is a number that “we’re not willing to forget.”

BWC collaborated with the Federation of State Medical Boards Foundation in this educational effort. For more information, please send inquires to [BWCOhioMed@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:BWCOhioMed@bwc.state.oh.us).

## OARRS registration to be required; coverage changes for compounded drugs

BWC’s pharmacy program proposed two key changes in the outpatient medication rules that:

- Require all Ohio physicians prescribing controlled substances to be registered in the Ohio Automated RX Reporting System (OARRS);
- Effect coverage for compounded prescriptions.

Both changes strengthen our continuing effort to provide appropriate medications for Ohio’s injured workers in a safe and efficacious manner.

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy maintains the OARRS database which contains information on every controlled substance dispensed by every Ohio pharmacy. The database is updated weekly. Current Medical Board rules require Ohio physicians prescribing controlled substances that treat chronic conditions to be registered with **and** to use the OARRS database in monitoring their patients. As such, the rule proposes that BWC not cover prescriptions for controlled substances unless the prescriber is registered in OARRS.

BWC also proposes to restrict reimbursement for topical compounded prescriptions unless those preparations meet the following criteria:

- Contains not less than one nor more than three FDA approved medications;
- Contains only one FDA approved drug from any specific therapeutic class of drugs;
- Requires submission of a prior authorization request that contains a copy of the signed prescription listing all ingredients, and shows the usual and customary cost of the prescription;
- Requires clinical documentation of improvement in pain and function for continued use past 90 days.

The changes are in response to the practice of certain pharmacies – located both in Ohio as well as out of state – to market topical preparations of products that are neither approved by the FDA nor prepared in FDA-regulated facilities. Such practices led to the meningitis outbreak nationwide late last year.

The proposed revisions to the rules, if approved by the BWC Board and the Joint Committee on Agency Rules Review, will be adopted effective July 1, 2013. If you have any questions, please send them to [rxfedback@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:rxfedback@bwc.state.oh.us).

*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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