

From: Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
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BWC Provider eNews



May 14, 2014

Learn more about transitional work May 20 at OCOSH; seeking developers

If you are a BWC-certified case manager, physical or occupational therapist, join us at our transitional work developer orientation from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 20. The program is at BWC's Ohio Center for Occupational Safety and Health, 13430 Yarmouth Drive, Pickerington, Ohio (near Columbus). There's no cost to attend the course.

Transitional work grants

Ohio employers use transitional work grants to develop progressive return-to-work and remain-at-work plans designed specifically for their companies. A BWC-accredited transitional work developer develops these plans with the employer. The programs help an employer's injured employees with temporary physical restrictions transition back to his or her original job quickly and safely.

Attendees will learn more about the essential five components of a transitional work plan. In addition, Commission for Case Manager Certification-board certified case managers, certified rehabilitation counselors and physical or occupational therapists can earn continuing education credits (CEUs) by attending this program. General CEUs are also available through the International Association of Continuing Education and Training.

The accreditation process

BWC-certified providers must submit the [Transitional Work Developer's Application \(TWD-115\)](#), complete a one day BWC workshop and document their transitional-work experience. Once the process is complete, we place your name on the BWC-accredited developer list on our transitional work developer information [Web page](#). Your accreditation is good for two years and continued participation requires biennial training.

Will your BWC transitional work developer accreditation expire in 2014?

If your BWC transitional work developer accreditation expires in 2014, don't worry. BWC offers a two-hour, computer-based webinar you may attend from your home or office. There are several webinars scheduled for 2014. The first session will be from 1 to 3 p.m., June 10. If you can't participate in this session, there will be other sessions offered in July, October and November.

For training details, see www.bwc.ohio.gov, Twitter and your email. If you have questions about the classes, [email](mailto:) or call 614-995-0437. BWC values your expertise and dedication in helping employers get their injured workers back to work, back to life.

What do we mean? – Causality or Causal Relationship

Have you ever wondered what BWC means when we ask about causality or causal relationship? The [Ohio Administrative Code 4123-3-09](#) and [Ohio Revised Code 4123.09](#) provide the basis and requirements to this question. Let us direct you to a few key points to address as an examining physician when asked about causality or causal relationship.

We are looking for your opinion on whether the mechanism of injury could cause the requested medical diagnosis based on:

- [First Report of Injury, Occupational Disease or Death \(FROI\)](#);
- Employer incident report;
- Medical records; and/or
- Information conveyed to you by the injured worker.

Medical opinion

We are not asking you to determine if we should allow the claim or medical diagnosis. We want your medical opinion, based on a reasonable degree of medical certainty, as to whether the mechanism of injury caused the requested medical diagnosis.

In deriving an opinion of causality or causal relationship you should rely on historical information available at the time you render your opinion. This would include:

- Information obtained from the injured worker, the employer and BWC;
- Results of physician examinations;
- Results of any diagnostic studies performed;
- Your medical knowledge and expertise.

What to consider

Key factors to consider in deriving an opinion include:

- Alleged mechanism of injury, exposure and/or work activity performed at the time of the alleged injury;
- Time of onset (direct and proximate cause) or chronological sequence;
- Duration of exposure or activity;
- Common or known conditions; which commonly occur as a result of a given exposure;
- Other contributing factors such as non-occupational activities or medical conditions that could

cause the condition. If you find any such conditions in the claim documentation, it would be beneficial to cite directly to this information and its bearing on your opinion.

Finally, it's important to note that you, the physician, should only express a medical opinion in light of the above considerations. Your medical opinion is essential to the claims-determination process. However, please be aware there are other legal issues that we must take into account when rendering a decision on allowance.

BWC revises our Provider Billing and Reimbursement Manual

We will have a new, revised Provider Billing and Reimbursement Manual (BRM) on our website later this summer. At its release, the manual will have a placeholder on the Medical Providers page, under the new Resources section. We condensed the manual to remove repetitive information. We also added links to quickly reach pertinent topics such as fee schedules and Ohio Administrative Code rules.

Doing business with BWC

The manual has a large amount of updated information. Remember, we do not print or mail the manual to providers. However, we expect all providers to reference it as their first resource for provider policy and reimbursement information. We will add policy alerts for providers to the bottom of the BRM page.

If you have questions about the manual, direct them to feedback.medical@bwc.state.oh.us.

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