

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

**Sent:** Thursday, May 24, 2018

**Subject:** SI eNews - May 2018



# SI Newsletter

## **Electronic invoicing and payments**

Self-Insured Assessment Invoices are now available online, and the primary e-account holder can sign up for this paperless option. We expect this option will be available in June. Employers will receive an email notification advising the invoice is available. An employer can return to paper invoices at any point.

Employers can pay invoices by electronic check or automated clearing house transfer, credit card and check.

These processes will help ensure timely payment of the assessment invoices and avoid late payment penalties. This will eliminate any potential delays that may occur using regular mail to send payments.

[Electronic invoices are available at this link.](#)

You can make [online electronic payments here](#).

## **BWC's September self-insured department workshops**

The self-insured (SI) department conducts regularly scheduled workshops to provide information to SI employers and their representatives. The workshops are generally at our facilities in Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati. These workshops cover multiple topics, which may be of interest. We're exploring options to conduct workshops in other areas of the state.

In February 2018, the SI department held a series of workshops discussing wage calculations, [Report of Paid Compensation and Case Reserves \(SI-40\)](#) reporting, assessments, the overturned claims reimbursement process and our role in self-insurance.

After presenting the basics of calculating the full and average weekly wages (FWW and AWW) the discussion focused on the need to obtain prior wage history from injured workers for the entire 52 weeks prior to the date of injury. This will prevent an incomplete calculation of the AWW. A suggestion was to request these earnings with the initial notification or certification letter to the injured worker. This discussion also addressed included and excluded earnings.

Highlights for the SI-40 portion included a discussion of appropriate reimbursements and recoveries to report, while noting employers should not report excess insurance reimbursement and subrogation recoveries for medical costs on the SI-40. It is also a requirement for employers to submit a backup report, including reserve documentation to [BWCSIAuditing@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:BWCSIAuditing@bwc.state.oh.us) when reporting the SI-40 to BWC.

## **Audits of SI Permanent Total Disability (PTD) claims**

With the auditing process rolled out in August 2012, we audited PTD claims for the first time. The intent was to ensure SI employers paid PTD claims at the correct rate and addressed Disabled Workers' Relief Fund (DWRF) payments. At the time, we suggested that all employers audit their own files to ensure they pay benefits properly.

The SI employer is solely responsible to ensure there is a complete record of all active PTD claims, and that the PTD benefits payments are correct. The SI department must be able to review wage information and other documentation used to set the wage and PTD rates and payment history. Beginning in May 2018, we will require a list of all active PTD claims, confirming the PTD rate, adjustments and actual pay rate and confirmation that the

complete file is available for viewing. When scheduling an audit, we will provide the blank list and request the return with a signature attesting to the accuracy of the list.

## New website launch

Our new website, the one we've told you about with better design, easier navigation and more relevant content went live on May 14.

**Note:** We've been transitioning our URL from [www.ohiobwc.com](http://www.ohiobwc.com), to [www.bwc.ohio.gov](http://www.bwc.ohio.gov) for quite some time. And while the old URL will work for now, this is a good time to update your bookmarks or shortcuts with the new URL.

The biggest thing you need to know is the new site will be very different. And, because the content and navigation are changing significantly, there will be no automatic redirecting, or "roadmap" to the new content. So, please take some time to familiarize yourself with the new site.

Another positive change aligns with our inclusion and diversity efforts. Our new site will meet suggested guidelines for accessibility. Examples include, color schemes that improve readability and fewer .pdfs, which interfere with software for the visually impaired. We're also taking the big step of making all our pages available in Spanish.

For a peek at the new site and an overview of the new navigation, check out this short [video](#).

**Note:** There's no audio.

As you go through the new site, remember that we built it with you in mind. Our new homepage enables you to find the most-requested information up front, as well as easy pathways based on our main users, including workers, employers and providers. Regardless of which page you're on, the navigation is consistent and easy to follow. You'll always link to the most requested services, commonly-asked questions, featured resources, news and events. Also, since the site will be new, the number of news items and featured resources will grow over time.

While the new site will have a different look and navigation, you'll still be able to sign in and conduct business with us as before, using the existing service offerings.

The following links may be of interest:

- [Viewing electronic invoices.](#)
- [Claims expense/DWRF/con-covered comp/VSSR payment detail.](#)
- [Assessment detail.](#)

- [Self-insuring employers.](#)
- [Employer policies.](#)

## **BWC involvement on self-insured claims**

We assign a claim number and maintain an electronic record of all reported self-insured (SI) claims. SI employers are responsible for reporting and maintaining the official record of all claims and identifying allowed conditions as well as ensuring all lost time and contested are reported to us. While SI employers must maintain a record for medical only claims, we do not require that they report them to us. Among other things, addressing applications and referring contested issues to the Ohio Industrial Commission is our role, which creates a large volume of correspondence and follow up.

We are continuing efforts to streamline activity on SI medical-only claims. The focus is on directing providers and injured workers to the SI employer for action on true medical only claims through system enhancements and modifying the claims team's internal processes. This will also reduce the amount of system generated correspondence, requiring less follow up between us and SI employers. The rollout of the new process in February has been a success, and we hope to expand this to lost-time claims later this summer. We will continue the same process for applications, including FROIs and C-86s to ensure we address the requests properly.

## **BWC Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) description**

As outlined in the April 16, 2018 policy alert, we clarified the pricing for CPT 97127- Cognitive Function Therapy. For 2018 the American Medical Association (AMA) added CPT 97127 to replace 97532. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) also added time-based Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code G0515 with a similar description. We adopted the new CPT code for 2018, but did not factor time into pricing. We recognize CPT 97127 as a time-based code to facilitate the appropriate time-based fee schedule limit as well as increasing max units from one to four. For dates of service from Jan. 1, 2018, to Dec. 31, 2018, providers may report CPT 97127, based on time, up to a maximum of four units per service. Documentation must support units of service billed. This correction is valid for the 2018 PPFS rate year (dates of service from Jan. 1, 2018, to Dec. 31, 2018).

Here is a link to the [BWC policy alert](#).

## Upcoming events

Aug. 1, 2018 - Semiannual assessments invoices available online (See link above.) and mailed out

Aug. 31, 2018 - Assessment payment due (See link to online payment above.)

Self-insured workshops - Dates to be determined

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Questions? Please call 1-800-644-6292



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