

Fraud

Fraud is a hidden cost of workers' compensation insurance, with an impact on both employers and injured workers. It is one reason workers' compensation costs can increase. If fraud is stopped, we can stabilize costs, which will benefit the entire system.

Fraud can occur in many ways, such as when injured workers go back to work and still collect benefits, when a doctor bills for services he or she never provided or when employers under-report payroll or misreport payroll to illegally lower their premiums.

In response, we continue our efforts to detect fraud through aggressive investigation of suspected fraud cases. Workers' Compensation fraud is a serious offence and Ohio law provides penalties for it.

To ensure we only pay legitimate claims, we are aggressively pursuing fraud through our special investigations department.

Fraud costs you money

Our special investigations department seeks to identify and recover funds obtained illegally in cases such as these:

- Improper billing for medical services. This includes billing more than once for a particular service, billing by unlicensed personnel and billing for services not rendered;
- False information supplied to us for financial or other gain. This includes falsified or altered documents submitted by injured workers, or misreported or underreported payroll reports submitted by employers;
- Individuals who collect BWC total disability compensation benefits while working.
- Injured workers who commit deception to obtain drugs, illegally divert their prescribed narcotics to others or deceive multiple medical providers to obtain multiple prescriptions.

Helping identify fraud

If you suspect fraud, call 1-800-OHIOBWC, and listen to the options. Callers may remain anonymous, but we will ask you for information, such as:

- Name and address of person you are reporting;
- Details about the improper or fraudulent activity you suspect;
- Description of the person or persons involved, relevant claim number(s), type and date of injury and location of employer or business address, job description and the hours worked.

You also can send this information to:
Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
Attn: Special Investigations
30W. Spring St., Annex
Columbus, OH 43215-2256

If you have questions about fraud, log on to ohiobwc.com, or call **1-800-OHIOBWC**. To learn more about our fraud efforts, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ohiobwcfraud or Twitter at www.twitter.com/ohiobwcfraud.