



Bob Taft, Governor
James Conrad, Administrator/CEO

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
30 W. Spring Street
Columbus, OH 43215-2256

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Dear Physician:

As a physician you know the importance of aggressively diagnosing and treating your patients. The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) wants to remove the barriers many physicians have told us prevent them from doing just that. Beginning Jan. 1, 2001, BWC implemented a pilot program that puts more treatment decisions into the hands of the physician and injured worker where it belongs. This pilot is called the 45-day presumptive authorization program.

The 45-day presumptive authorization program allows you to diagnose and treat injured workers for the first 45 days following a new work-related injury without obtaining prior authorization for certain services. The attached fact sheet explains this new program for state-fund claims and provides answers to your most commonly asked questions. In addition, the fact sheet provides the standardized prior authorization table for all other services.

Studies show that prompt, appropriate health care after an injury helps workers recover faster and miss fewer workdays. And by eliminating the prior authorization requirement for the most common work-related injuries, you can provide the necessary treatment quickly so injured workers can return to their jobs and lifestyles sooner. That's what BWC's Health Partnership Program (HPP) is all about — early and safe return to work.

I hope you agree that this is a big step forward in the treatment of Ohio's working men and women. BWC will closely monitor utilization and outcomes of the pilot program so that we can continue to build and expand this program in the future. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or encounter problems with your implementation of the 45-day presumptive authorization program at **1-800-OHIOBWC** and press 42.

Sincerely,

James Conrad
Administrator/CEO

