Worker’s Compensation

Worker’s Compensation is a short-term assistance program to cover the cost of medical care and lost wages while an injured worker recovers.

Disability or Work Capability?

Today's challenges:
Too often physicians label their patients “disabled” with little understanding of how to assess function. Just because an employee is injured on the job does not mean that he or she cannot work. Treating physicians, serving as “patient advocates” often render opinions that qualify as claim decisions instead of simply documenting medically supported restrictions and limitations (R&L) to provide claims examiners the information needed to make accurate, informed and well-supported claims decisions. Teaching medical experts to limit their opinions to medically supported R&L’s makes the process less adversarial and allows injured workers a quicker, safer return to the workplace.

Treatment:
Treatment should be tied to function restoration -- if increasing functionality due to treatment cannot be documented, then the treatment should be terminated.

Permanent Impairment Ratings:
Permanent medical impairment is defined as an injury or condition that is unlikely to improve despite further medical treatment. It is only appropriate to assess permanent impairment when the patient has reached maximum medical improvement. Our physicians are highly trained in this area and adhere to the AMA, ACOEM, and ODG guidelines.

Second Injury Fund:
Many states offer reimbursement for compensation payments made for injured workers through a Second Injury Fund (SIF). To receive reimbursement, the employer must demonstrate that the employee had a qualifying pre-existing condition and that the employee was hired with full knowledge of this condition and that a subsequent injury when combined with the pre-existing condition resulted in a condition substantially greater than the subsequent injury alone. Our physicians are trained to understand the sensitive legal issues of the SIF, therefore resulting in assessments that qualify the employer for reimbursement.

What We Offer

At The Physician Network, we have over fifteen years of experience in the worker's compensation market. Our experienced staff of medical practitioners is skilled in evaluating all aspects of work injuries and providing the following services:

- Medical record reviews
- Medical case strategies
- SIF forms/reports
- Permanent impairment rating validations
- Independent medical evaluations
- Early-Intervention
- Standard
- Extended
  All ancillary services provided
- Medical claims trainings

Providing insight into medical claims®