



OPERATION

ABLE WORKER

A publication of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine to foster information sharing among Army professionals dedicated to the prevention of occupational injuries and subsequent disability in civilian employees.

Vol 2: May 2003

From the Editors | MARIANNE CLOEREN, MD, MPH, KATHEE SECOR, RN

Welcome to volume 2 of *Operation Able Worker*. Thanks for the enthusiastic response to the first issue, and thanks to all of you who suggested article ideas for this and future volumes. Keep your ideas coming! And please do pass this on to colleagues who may be interested. If you would like to share, please direct your ideas or questions to Marianne.Cloeren@us.army.mil. Thanks for your interest!

Innovations | CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT'S MEDICAL PLACEMENT TEAM

Corpus Christi Army Depot has a policy to search for available positions for qualified employees to provide, wherever possible, work that will allow maximal use of their knowledge, skills and physical abilities. Faced with a large number of individuals who were unable to perform the duties of their position, CCAD initiated the Medical Placement Team concept. The team consists of safety, union, personnel and resource management employees. CCAD's regulation delineates the responsibilities of all involved. There are 3 initial components to the program: Supervisory review of accommodation; industrial engineering work center assessment; and safety and ergonomic review with a preventive perspective. The medical placement team reviews the individual's Official Personnel Folder and required medical documentation. An interview is conducted with the employee. The employee is advised of any discrepancies in the work history within the OPF and provided the opportunity to update the record. Interviews are also conducted with the current supervisor to determine whether accommodation can be made, and the prospective supervisor if a position is located. FY02 began with 85 individuals needing the assistance of the medical placement team. By the conclusion of the fiscal year, 16 individuals were returned to full duty, 24 employees were re-assigned or changed to a lower grade and 15 employees were accommodated in their original work centers. The POC is Marie House DSN 861-6552

FORT POLK has set aside several fire dispatcher jobs for returning workers on the long-term rolls back to work. These sedentary jobs are appropriate for most restrictions placed on injured workers. They have found that once the treating physician and OWCP have approved the job, and the job is offered, most workers have turned down the job, allowing termination of benefits. Since this idea was implemented 5 years ago, 10 former employees have been removed from the rolls. For more information about this approach, please contact Ms. Yvonne Johnson at 337 531-4881.

CALL FOR INNOVATIONS -- If you have a unique approach to prevention or case management that is worth sharing with others, please send a paragraph describing your innovation to Marianne.Cloeren@apg.amedd.army.mil for consideration for future issues. We need your ideas!

Q & A

Question: Can our OH Clinic bill for care of Army employees injured at work?

Answer: DOD Health Affairs policy prohibits billing OWCP for care rendered to DA civilian employees injured or made ill by work. This includes emergency care as well as follow-up care. However, Army clinics can bill for care offered beyond the initial visit for non-appropriated fund (NAF) employees injured at work and should bill the employer at the interagency rate.

Tricare Management Activity has already clarified this issue to the field in the document found in the last page of this newsletter, copied from the UBO Website:

http://www.tricare.osd.mil/ebc/rm_home/files/ubo/ubo_wc.doc

Thanks to Carla Treadwell and Michael L. Edwards of the Navy for supplying the information used in this response.

Conference Announcements

The 5th Annual Federal Workers' Compensation Conference will be held August 5-7 in Washington DC. More information can be found at <http://www.chepinc.org/conf/wcc.shtml>

The annual Force Health Protection Conference, to be held in Albuquerque, NM August 11-17, will offer a new two-day track on workers' compensation, as well as three days on ergonomics. Much of the ergonomics track also addresses case management and workers' compensation related issues. For more information on this conference, go to <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/fhp/>. The full listing of course titles is not yet at the site, but should be soon.

For a listing of conferences and courses offered by DOD CPMS, consult their website at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/icuc/icuc.htm>

CPMS is getting ready to launch its new ICUC upgrade, which is in beta test now. Those who have had the opportunity to see the capabilities of this program are enthusiastic about this new tool. The following information is excerpted from the ICUC website at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/icuc/icuc.htm>.

ICUC Power Cubes are web-based reporting tools designed to support injury and unemployment compensation, safety and occupational health administration gather statistical data necessary to identify areas to improve within each program, and develop program initiatives to manage programs more effectively at all organizational levels.

Each of the ICUC Power Cubes provides the user with capabilities to:

- Drill-down to lower levels within a component or installation to quickly answer critical business questions
- Interactively explore corporate data in any combination, from any conceivable angle
- Choose from a wide range of graphical displays to explore the key factors driving the business
- Sort and rank data to more efficiently identify targeted areas for improvement
- Filter data to display only the information that is pertinent to the business areas of interest
- Open summary reporting to authorized components and installation customers
- Secure detail reporting to those users with appropriate DIUCS security

ICUC Power Cubes provide information for the following areas:

- Injury Statistics by Year of Injury (Since 1960)
- Chargeback Statistics since 1994
- Continuation of Pay Data since 1998
- OWCP Medical Payments for current Chargeback Year
- Electronic Data Interchange Statistical Data since June, 2002

ICUC Power Cubes may contain summarized data, or detailed data depending on the specific requirements for each Power Cube. Those Power Cubes containing detailed (claim-specific) data are secured by username and password. Security roles within the system limits access of detail data to those individuals who have a business reason for reviewing detail information, and are also further defined by geographic area or responsibility.

ICUC Web Portal CPMS-ICUC has also designed a web portal containing reference material, links and access to ICUC Power Cubes and system support tools such as DIUCS and EDI from a single website in an effort to consolidate information for each of the programs that the ICUC Power Cubes services.

The ICUC Web Portal creates an information base for all users with references and links useful to injury compensation, unemployment compensation, safety, occupational health, ergonomics and supervisors. The ICUC Web Portal promotes information sharing between programs that are closely related, thereby improving communication efforts.

The ICUC Web Portal is also secured by username and password. This level of security also determines which information within the portal is accessible for each individual user. In addition to limiting sensitive data to only those with a business need to see that data, security allows each user to customize their own ICUC Web Portal to include special web sites, frequently used reports and other information.

Tips

- ✓ Each OWCP district office has a DOD liaison responsible for helping DOD installations in the region. This includes providing supervisor training. Consider asking your DOD liaison to provide training for your supervisors in using EDI to initiate claim filing.
- ✓ CPMS has published guidance on handling claims for reactions to smallpox vaccines, recommending that the advice provided by OWCP on handling claims related to anthrax exposure is relevant to smallpox vaccine reactions too. This advice can be found at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/icuc/icuc.htm>

BILLING PROCEDURES FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIMS

	PatCat	Occupational Health	First Visit Workers' Compensation	Follow-up Visits Workers' Compensation
Beneficiary (employed outside the DoD)		Bill OHI/or patient the applicable IP or OP Rate depending on the Patient Category.	Bill employer the applicable full IP or OP Rate.	Bill employer the applicable full IP or OP Rate.
DoD Employee (Appropriated Funds)	K57 DoD Empl Occ Health/ K621 OWCP - DoD Beneficiary	No Charge.	No charge.	No charge.
DoD Employee (NAF) (Non Appropriated Fund)		Bill employer at the interagency rate.	No charge for initial emergency care, including initial treatment after on-the- job injury or illness.	Follow-ups and non- emergent care bill employer at interagency rate.
Civilian Emergency	K92A Emergency Care	not eligible	Bill at the full rate patient or patient's employer who will forward the bill to the appropriate insurance company	not eligible
Other Federal Agency (Non-DoD Beneficiary)	K531 US Civ Empl Auth Occ Hlth Services/ K622 OWCP - Non DoD Beneficiary	Bill Agency for services at the interagency rate.	Bill Agency for services at the interagency rate.	Bill Agency for services at the interagency rate.
DoD Emergency Essential Personnel		No Charge	No charge if sustained and treated overseas during hostilities.	No charge if sustained and treated overseas during hostilities.
Emergency Essential Civilian Contractors	K651 contract employee	Bill patient's employer or patient the full rate.	No charge if sustained and treated overseas during hostilities. Bill patient's employer or patient the full rate.	No charge if sustained and treated overseas during hostilities. Bill patient's employer or patient the full rate.

Note: MTF patients with multiple statuses are billed at the highest level of entitlement (least expense to the patient).

Source: http://www.tricare.osd.mil/ebc/rm_home/files/ubo/ubo_wc.doc

Tidbits...

- A new study based on data from OSHA Form 200's, covering all OSHA recordable injuries and illnesses, provides the basis for rating state-by-state workers' compensation performance. The study, called *State Report Cards for Workers' Comp*, was prepared by Work Loss Data Institute (WLDI) to help employers, insurers, TPA's, state governments, and consultants answer the questions, "Who is doing well and why?" To see how your state compared to others, visit http://www.odg-disability.com/pr_repsrc.htm.

- The new Workers' Compensation e-mail discussion forum is on-line. We are up to 240 members from all parts of the DoD. If you would like to join, send a blank e-mail message to join-comp-forum@list.denix.osd.mil