

Workers' Compensation Medical Advisory Board

The Medical Advisory Board meets every four to six weeks and is comprised of, by Statute, an orthopedic surgeon, a neurologist, a neurosurgeon, a physicist, a chiropractor, a physical therapist, an internist, a psychiatrist, and three ad hoc members. Responsibilities of this board include:

- Establishing protocols and standards of treatment for work-related injuries and illnesses
- Approval of Preferred Provider Networks
- Approval and promulgation of rules, regulations and procedures concerning the appointment and qualification of Comprehensive Independent Health Care Review Teams and Impartial Medical Examiners.

The Robert F. Arrigan Rehabilitation Center

The Arrigan Center is a state agency which offers comprehensive physical therapy and occupational therapy intervention to address injured workers who possess a variety of orthopedic and neurological concerns.

In addition, the Arrigan Center offers extensive psychological and vocational services for specific clients in need of such services.

Contact Information

If you have problems or questions, please contact the Education Unit at:
(401) 462-8100-press 1.

Email: dlt.wcedcunit@dlt.ri.gov

If you are unable to verify the employer's coverage, please call (401) 462-8100, option #4 or email dlt.wcfrad@dlt.ri.gov

Donley Rehabilitation Center
Phone: (401) 243-1200
Website: www.dlt.ri.gov/Donley

RI Workers' Compensation
Medical Advisory Board
Phone: (401) 458-3460
Website: www.courts.ri.gov/Courts/workerscompensationcourt/MedicalAdvisoryBoard

RI Workers' Compensation Court
Phone: (401) 458-5000
Website: www.courts.ri.gov/Courts/workerscompensationcourt



Equal Opportunity Employer/Program – Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
TTY via RI Relay 711 Rev. 10/18



RI Department of Labor and Training
Workers' Compensation Division
Education Unit

What Medical Providers should know about Workers' Compensation



*A guide for health care professional
treating patients with a
work-related injury or illness*

RI Department of Labor and Training
Workers' Compensation - Education Unit
PO Box 20190, Cranston, RI 02920-0942
www.dlt.ri.gov/wc

The Rhode Island Workers' Compensation system provides assistance to employees who have been injured at work or have an illness due to their job. Benefits are controlled by law and include but are not limited to reasonable medical expenses and lost wages.



Are all employers required to carry workers' compensation insurance?

Unless otherwise exempt by law,

employers with one or more employees must have workers' compensation insurance.

Examples of exclusions include but are not limited to: federal employees, sole proprietors, partners, independent contractors and members of a regularly organized fire and police department.

What is the jurisdiction of the RI Workers' Compensation Law?

The Law applies to any and all employees as defined by Statute, who are injured or hired in the state of Rhode Island. Treatment by an out of state provider must be in accordance with RI Law. If you treat an employee whose injury falls outside of Rhode Island's jurisdiction, you should contact the insurer or employer for treatment and billing information.

Can the employee choose his/her own doctor?

An injured employee has the freedom of choice to obtain health care, diagnosis and treatment from any qualified health care provider initially.

The first visit to a facility providing emergency care or to a physician or medical facility under contract or agreement with the employer or the insurer providing priority care shall not constitute the initial choice. However, if he/she returns for evaluation or treatment, the insurer may consider that provider to be the health care provider of record.

Can the employee change medical providers?

If the insurer or self-insured employer has a Preferred Provider Network (PPN) approved by the Medical Advisory Board, any change from the initial health care provider of record shall only be to a provider listed in the PPN. If the employee seeks to change to a provider not listed, or if no PPN exists, approval of the insurer or self-insured employer is required.

Can the treating physician refer the employee for a second opinion or treatment?

The health care provider of record may, without prior approval, refer the employee to any qualified specialist for independent consultation or assessment, or for specified treatment.

Is permission required for major surgery?

Yes, the doctor must submit the request for permission for surgery from the Court, the employer or the insurance carrier, except where compliance with it may prove fatal or detrimental. No fee for major surgery shall be paid unless permission for it is first obtained.

Are items such as eye glasses or dentures covered?

All medical, optical, dental and surgical appliances required to cure or relieve the employee from the effects of the injury, include but are not limited to: ambulance and nursing services, eyeglasses, dentures, braces and supports, artificial limbs, crutches, and other similar appliances are covered. The employer is **not** liable to pay for or provide hearing aids or other amplification devices.

Will the Division of Workers' Compensation confirm that an injury has been reported?

No, claim records are not public information. Insurance coverage is public; if you are unable to identify the insurer, please contact our office at (401) 462-8100, option #1, or visit: www.dlt.ri.gov/wc/fraud_coverage.htm.

What is our obligation to an employer who requests that bills and reports be sent to them?

Rhode Island General Law 28-33-8 requires that the health care provider provide reports, forms and bills to the insurer or self-insured employer. Any agreement reached with an employer does not dismiss your statutory obligations.



This brochure is not intended to be a full and complete description of law and is not a substitute for legal advice.