

For: State Offices

Continuation of Pay (COP) Nurse Intervention

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Management



1 Overview

A

Background

The President's Federal Worker 2000 initiative directed the Department of Labor (DOL) to:

- reduce the overall occurrence of injuries by 3 percent per year
- improve the timeliness of reporting injuries and illnesses by agencies to DOL by 5 percent per year
- reduce the occurrence of these injuries by 10 percent per year for those work sites with the highest rates of serious injuries
- reduce the rate of lost production days by 2 percent per year.

To meet these goals, the Office of Worker's Compensation Program (OWCP) has placed strategic emphasis on:

- prompt adjudication and payment of benefits
- early intervention in new injuries
- active disability management
- prompt, appropriate return to the workplace.

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Disposal Date	Distribution
December 1, 2001	State Offices

Notice PM-2202

1 Overview (Continued)

B

Purpose

This notice informs State Offices that OWCP is implementing a nurse intervention program during the COP period. Telephonic Case Manager (TCM) nurses or field nurses will now become involved in OWCP cases within the first 45-calendar-day COP period.

Early intervention depends on prompt submission of claim forms by State Offices, since any case with an initial work stoppage date more than 30 calendar days before the date the case is received by OWCP will not be considered for this program.

C

Contact

For further information regarding this notice, please contact Darla Hensley on 202-418-9021 or Maria Ruiz on 202-418-9034, TCC 202-418-9116.

2 COP Nurse Intervention Program

A

Program Provisions

The COP nurse intervention program uses existing TCM nurses or the field nurse pool to help with early identification of serious injuries, complicated surgery, or other issues that may result in additional lost time after the COP period. The nurses will also be able to discuss injured worker's medical concerns and offer advice.

The COP nurse intervention program is:

- solely telephonic
- limited to 30 calendar days of case management.

Note: Cases with an initial work stoppage date more than 30 calendar days before the date the case is received by OWCP will not be considered for this program.

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2 COP Nurse Intervention Program (Continued)

B

COP Nurse Responsibilities

Upon receipt of a referred case, the COP nurse will contact the State Office to determine the injured employee's return to work status. If the employee's status cannot be determined with the State Office, then the COP nurse will contact the injured employee to discuss return to work capabilities/status.

The COP nurse will attempt to contact the State Office or the injured employee 3 times. If no information is available by the second contact, the COP nurse will call the attending physician to request updated medical reports and physical limitations for a return to work.

The COP nurse will note all contacts and information obtained on the Case Update Screen.

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State Office Action

The COP Nurse Intervention Program is dependent upon prompt submission of claim forms by State Offices.

State Offices must ensure that all of their OWCP claim forms are received by DOL no later than 14 calendar days from the date received from the injured employee.

Refer to the following table for the appropriate OWCP forms and the identified blocks necessary for the COP Nurse Intervention Program.

Form	Required Blocks
CA-1, Federal Employee's Notice of Traumatic Injury and Claim for Continuation of Pay/Compensation	24, 25, 26, 27
CA-2, Notice of Occupational Disease and Claim for Compensation	13, 15, 19, 20
CA-2a, Recurrence of Disability and Claim for Continuation of Pay/Compensation	32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40
CA-7, Claim for Compensation on Account of Traumatic Injury or Occupational Disease	Sections 11 and 13

Note: These blocks on the form initiate the COP Nurse Intervention Program. All forms must still be fully completed.
