

Council of Construction Associations
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COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #498 January 4, 2011

Duration of WSBC Claims Continues to Rise!

The average length of time off on a workers' compensation claim for a worker in the Construction Industry continues to increase significantly.

As reported in the October 29, 2010 issue of the COCA Update, the average Duration of a claim increased from 50 days in 2008 to 65 days in 2009. (This is the average length of time that an injured worker stays off on a WorkSafeBC claim.)

The average Duration for 2010 is now 70 days! This very negative trend will start to have an impact upon the WorkSafeBC assessments paid by Construction Industry from 2012 to 2014 and beyond unless we start to take decisive action now.

COCA is working with WorkSafeBC to determine the factors that have caused this sudden upswing in time off work.

In the meantime, construction companies need to do two things.

Start to use the Nurse Advisory line at WorkSafeBC. The Nurse Advisors were put in place over one year ago at the request of COCA. Nurse advisors can assist employers with return to work assistance, disability management and claim updates.

The Construction Nurse Advisors:

- have access to ALL available WorkSafeBC claim file information.
- will do job site visits to your worksite to facilitate Return to Work planning.
- will assist employers to develop Injury/Disability Management Programs.

The Nurse Advisor can help to expedite a safe and early Return to Work, thereby reducing the duration of the claim.

NOTE: The Construction Nurse Line is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm:

CALL: 604-279-8155 or

Toll Free: 1-877-633-6233

The second important action is to use the free services of the CBI Health Group. (CBI bills WorkSafeBC for services related to accepted WorkSafeBC claims.)

CBI works with the injured worker to facilitate early medical and physiotherapy services.

Right at the start of the claim, the CBI program arranges same day or next day access to a doctor specially trained in Return to Work processes. A physiotherapy assessment is also arranged immediately, when needed.

There is direct, same day, communication with the employer to facilitate a safe return to work. This service is available to contractors, who register in advance with CBI. The company has an extensive network of medical care and rehabilitation centres across the province. This care plan is discussed with the worker and an employer representative, and passed on to the family physician and WorkSafeBC on the day of assessment, continuing with concurrent or additional treatment intervention programs as required. The success of the program depends on employers being committed to offering appropriate and meaningful modified duties, where necessary, to ensure worker safety and facilitate recovery while on the job.

To contact CBI, call:

Mike Allegreto
Clinic Manager, CBI
Tel. 250-383-3638 ext 116

These two simple but significant actions will help to reduce the time off work and the amount that you pay for workers' compensation coverage.