

Modified Duty: The answer to lower costs

Providing modified duty for injured workers is the key to lowering your Worker's Comp costs. Many companies have modified duty available in the workplace, but there are times when an employee cannot be accommodated. If the employee is taken off work and it becomes a loss time injury the cost goes up. Recent statistics state that an injured employee who returns the next day to work cost a company on average, \$700. If that employee loses some work days, the average claim rises to \$8,000. That is a difference of \$7,300, on average.

What can a company do to avoid such costs if they can't provide modified duty? The answer is to use HealthFirst Medical's In House Modified Duty. For a minimal cost per day, your employee can be enrolled in a beneficial program. While at HealthFirst your employee will be in a structured program that includes: Watching safety videos and answering related questions, reading materials on a variety of health and safety issues and answering questions, two daily exercise programs, and class discussions. If your employee has a doctors appointment or physical therapy appointment, it will be scheduled during the hours of the program.

Many companies currently are using the In House Modified Duty program and have found it to be a great cost savings. HealthFirst is in the process of expanding the space for the program because of the growing demand. Companies such as Von's Distribution, US Foodservice, City of Montebello, and Jon Donaire use the program on a regular basis. The program is available for both day and night shifts.

For more information and a tour, please contact your marketing representative.

EDEX: The benefits of this service

As your company starts the new year, it is a perfect time to add the valuable service of EDEX to your post offer physicals. Companies are always looking for better ways to hire quality employees and EDEX can help.

EDEX is a database system, which provides complete access to workers' compensation case history in the State of California. EDEX is important because of the value of the information it provides to its users, primarily Healthfirst Medical Group (as your provider), and secondarily to you, the employer. This information is valuable because it can help you make more informed hiring decisions. When the provider has the information it enhances the post offer exam by allowing the provider to more accurately and thoroughly judge whether an applicant is capable of performing the essential functions of the job.

Another use of the EDEX information is when an employee has a work injury. HealthFirst can run an EDEX and based on the information received, determine if an injury is new or a reoccurrence of an earlier incident that can be considered in apportionment. You don't want to pay for an injury that happened when your employee was working for some other company.

If you would like to add EDEX as part of your post offer evaluation and/or for an injured employee, please contact your Marketing Representative at (562) 949-9328 or (562)926-3440. You will have to complete a registration/disclaimer form which will be submitted to the State of California. We anticipate that we can begin accessing EDEX for your company within 1-2 weeks after we receive your completed form.

HealthFirst Launches New Computer System

HealthFirst Medical is excited about the launch of our new computer system the Galen 2000. We have spent the last three years searching for the best system for our company now and in the future.

Our plan is to implement the system in our North Clinic in February and the South Clinic in March. When we go live, all new patients coming to HealthFirst for a new injury, physical or drug screen will be entered in the new system. The existing patients will finish their treatment using our old system. As a result, you will be receiving bills from both of the systems each month until all payments have been received for treatment prior to the new system. We hope with will not create problems for your company.

One great feature of this new system is our capability to automatically fax or email the patient status form to your company. You will also get a fax or email if a patient misses their appointment. The system automatically clocks the patient in when he/she arrives, clocks them in again when they finish filling out paperwork and clocks them out then they complete their treatment. This information will help us to evaluate wait times and provide you better service.

In the near future we will be implementing the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) portion of our new system. At that time the patients records will be kept in an electronic format. All documents related to the patient will be

scanned into the EMR. All providers notes will typed into the system, which will provide easily readable reports.

Yet another feature of the new computer system is web enabled access. After a few months we will be able to offer companies the ability to access certain information such as current and historical patient activity reports, patient work status information, etc. Your Marketing Representative will set your company up with a secure password if you wish to access this information. Your insurance company will also be able to access our system to review workers' compensation injury reports.

As with any new computer system there may be a few bugs to work out as we go live. We are confident that they will be minor and will be corrected quickly. As always HealthFirst Medical Group's goal is to provide our companies with the best Occupational Medical Service possible.

Changes in Company Information?

Company Name: _____

Contact: _____

Email Address: _____

Insurance Carrier: _____

Phone/Fax: _____

Other: _____



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