

Ohio Safety Congress & Expo (OSC) - March 6-8, 2019

The Ohio Safety Congress & Expo (OSC), is put on by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Attendance is free for Ohio employers and their employees. You'll just need to know your policy number in order to register. This event helps educate businesses to keep their workforce safe, healthy, and productive. **To register or for more information go to:**

<https://ohiosafetycongress.com> and click on the Register now button.

When: March 6, 2019—March 8, 2019

Where: Greater Columbus Convention Center—Booth # 530

****Be sure to visit the HMS exhibit booth (#530) and say "Hello!" ****



Quarterly Question?

What is the difference between a Managed Care Organization (MCO), and a Third Party Administrator (TPA)?



- As an employer in the state of Ohio, you have the right to choose an MCO, but if you do not, the BWC will assign one to your policy. Employers can make a selection every other year, during the month of May, what the Bureau of Worker's Compensation calls Open Enrollment.
- An MCO is a neutral party in the claims process and is paid by the BWC.
- The MCO files and manages your claims. This includes:
 1. Submitting a First Report of Injury (FROI) for each injury.
 2. Requesting providers to submit proper medical documentation.
 3. Processing treatment requests and developing treatment plans.
 4. Reviewing claims for appropriate medication management.
 5. Processing medical bills.
 6. Collaboration with the employer, the injured worker, the TPA, the BWC, and the provider to facilitate a safe return-to-work outcome.
- As an employer in the state of Ohio, you also have the right to choose a particular TPA. The BWC will not automatically assign an employer a TPA. An employer can make a selection of a TPA at any time.
- The TPA works on behalf of the employer for an administrative fee paid by the employer.
- TPA's provide Premium Savings Programs offered by the BWC, like Group Rating.
- The TPA evaluates and manages all established claims in the employer's experience period. This includes:
 1. Actuarial soundness—verifying correct manual code classifications and number of employees per classification to ensure employer is paying the correct premium
 2. Industrial Commission (IC) hearing representation.
 3. New claim certification decision, if BWC allows claim and the employer elects to reject it.
 4. Communication with the employer, the BWC, and the MCO to help facilitate a safe return to work for your injured worker.
 5. Cost containment strategies such as handicap reimbursement and claim settlement.

The cold season is here



Slips, trips, and falls are a very common cause of injury in cold months. To help prevent slips, trips, and falls during this cold season, employers should clear walking surfaces covered in snow and ice. Spreading a deicer, as quickly as possible after snow or ice have fallen will also help reduce the risk of these accidents. Staff should be reminded to take short steps at a slower pace so they can react to a change in their traction quickly. You should also make sure entrance areas are kept as clean and dry as possible, by using water absorbent mats, and use wet floor signs to alert staff and/or visitors.

With the cold weather here, hypothermia and frostbite can become a serious safety risk to everyone, especially those employers who have an outdoor workforce. The most often affected body parts are nose, ears, fingers, toes, cheeks, and chin.

When going outside be sure to wear:

- a hat, a scarf or mask that covers the face, mittens or gloves, water-resistant boots, a water-resistant coat, a layers of loose fitted clothing.

Some signs and symptoms are:

- Frostbite: Redness or pain on the skin area, white or grayish-yellow looking skin, and numbness
- Hypothermia: Shivering, exhaustion, drowsiness, memory loss, slurred speech.

Medical attention should be sought if any individual experiences any signs of frostbite or hypothermia.



Dates to Remember

Public Employers

February 15:

- **Public employer taxing district payroll true-up deadline. (2018 (policy year began on Jan. 1.)**



Private Employers

February 28:

- **Private employers deadline for applying for Policy Activity Rebate.**

March 29:

- **Private employers must complete education requirements for One Claim Program (OCP), and EM Cap.**

It is the mission of Health Management Solutions to proactively direct and coordinate the medical care of each injured worker to expedite a safe and successful return to work.