

SUBJECT: September 2011 “Who’s on Board” & Program News

Dear Members and Supporters,

Please welcome the following contractors who made the decision to “COME ON BOARD” the Union Construction Workers’ Compensation Program (UCWCP) effective *September 1, 2011*:

Associated Mechanical Contractors, Inc. (Returning Contractor)

Contract Tile and Carpet, LLC

Commercial Refrigeration Systems

S. R. Weidema, Inc. (Returning Contractor)

WELCOME ABOARD!

RECORD NUMBER OF UNIONS AND CONTRACTORS PARTICIPATING IN THE UCWCP

We are happy to announce that participation in the program is at an all time high with 297 contractors and 22 participating construction trade unions representing 43 local unions. It is with the support of our participants that we are able to achieve the mission of the UCWCP:

Eliminate the adversarial culture of workers' compensation claim administration; improve the delivery of wage-replacement benefits and the quality of medical care to injured union members; return injured workers to their pre-injury job quickly; reduce the costs of insurance for union contractors thereby increasing their competitiveness.

Thank you all for your continuing support.

To see a complete list of our participating contractors, unions and insurance providers please click on the following link.

<http://www.ucwcp.com/documents/UCWCP%20D.%20Whos%20on%20board.pdf>

NEW MEMBER QUOTES

“After we joined in 2004 we appreciated the program’s innovative approach to workers’ compensation claims administration, access to an exclusive network of doctors and rehabilitation consultants, and having a dispute resolution process that quickly moved disputed claims to a resolution. When we changed to a non-sponsoring insurance carrier in 2009 we had to leave the program. Luckily the carrier recently became a sponsor of the UCWCP and we were able to join again. We knew that the program’s services resulted in better outcomes for our employees and the company, and we are glad to be back.”

Mary Lemke, Controller

Associated Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

Member from 2004 – 2009, returned September 2011

And...

“I am pleased that our local members and our signatory contractors will now have the services of the Union Construction Workers’ Compensation Program. Knowing that our injured members will receive prompt answers and solutions should a problem occur will benefit both them and the contractor they were working for when they were injured.”

John Grahek, Business Manager

Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union #589

Participation effective July 1, 2011

EXCLUSIVE PROVIDER ORGANIZATION (EPO) REVIEWS PAIN MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS

In June our EPO Nominations and Review Committee--which is comprised of the program’s 81 Exclusive Rehabilitation Consultants, along with health-care administrators, nurse case managers, physicians and chiropractors--was asked to consider 17 Pain Management specialists who were either already in the EPO or had been recently nominated for

inclusion. The survey of pain management specialists was done in response to a dangerous national trend--the increased prescribing of strong narcotics in the treatment of work-related injuries.

The EPO Nominations and Review Committee's confidential responses are used by the program to ensure that the health-care providers in the EPO meet the following criteria:

- Are considered "best in class" in their practice areas, and maintain respectful yet firm boundaries with patients and other allied professionals;
- Accurately document injury factors such as: diagnosis, relationship of condition to the work activities/injury, return-to-work date, and work capabilities of the patient;
- Thoroughly complete a Work Abilities form that includes specific abilities that are understandable and legible, and fax or email the form to the employer or insurer within 24 hours of each visit;
- Refer patients to providers that are in the EPO, unless prior authorization to go out-of-network is obtained;
- Have a sufficient working knowledge of the Minnesota workers' compensation system and treatment parameters to avoid misunderstandings or disputes.

A review of the committee's responses is now complete, and the EPO directory has been updated. To see a complete list of our EPO providers please click on the following link.

<http://www.ucwcp.com/healthcare.asp>

A NEUTRAL PHYSICIAN EXAMINATION DETERMINES WHO SHOULD PAY

A laborer injured his right knee when a ditch collapsed. The participating contractor's insurer accepted liability for the claim, and paid for the surgery and wage loss benefits. After his recovery he returned to full duty work for a different participating contractor. After he began working for his new employer he reported that the same knee was hurting again. They filed a first report of injury with their insurer.

The insurers for both contractors denied liability claiming the other was responsible for the new treatment expenses and potential lost time. At a facilitation session all agreed that a Neutral Physician Examination would help determine who should pay for the claim. The facilitator had the parties agree on the selection of the neutral doctor during the meeting and scheduled the exam that day. The examiner's recent report concluded that the injury with each employer was equally responsible for the injured worker's current condition and therefore they should equally share in paying the outstanding medical expenses. The opinion was accepted by the parties and the dispute was resolved.

Please be safe, and enjoy the last days of Summer!

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