

Union Construction Workers' Compensation Program: PROGRAM COMPONENTS

An exclusive benefit to everyone in the construction industry collectively bargained and created by labor and management.

Alternative Dispute Resolution System

“What happens when there is a problem?”

- The unions and contractors selected a Dispute Facilitator that anyone can call to help solve problems.
- Any problems that come up in a claim are handled in a direct, fast and fair way using a simplified, three-step process.
- Everyone avoids the costs and delays that occur in a state system that was not created specifically for this industry.
- Anyone can choose to have an attorney at any time, but most problems get solved without legal expenses.
- Problems get solved within days or weeks rather than months or years.
- The program has a track record of success since it began July 1, 1997.

Exclusive Provider Organization

“How do injured workers get medical treatment?”

- The unions and contractors selected an exclusive list of the very best Occupational Medical Doctors and Specialists for their knowledge and expertise with construction injuries.
- These clinics and doctors agree to provide appointments within 24 hours, and referrals within five days.
- These clinics and doctors agree to provide pro-active treatment, and to keep everyone informed on an injured worker’s care and ability to return to work.
- A call center is provided to assist in selecting the closest clinic for work injury care and the best doctor for treatment.
- Although exclusive with few exceptions, the EPO does not limit necessary emergency care.

Neutral Medical Examiner Panel

“Whose doctor provides a neutral opinion?”

- The unions and contractors selected an exclusive list of neutral doctors to give opinions to help resolve medical disputes.
- These doctors are specifically chosen for their expertise in work injury issues.
- These doctors have a duty to provide fair, objective reports that are used by everyone to solve problems about liability, return to work restrictions, medical treatment, and other work injury issues.
- Everyone has a say in who the doctor will be and what opinions will be requested, with final selection by the facilitator.
- Usually everyone accepts the neutral doctor’s opinion which helps avoid the long and expensive legal process.

Exclusive Rehabilitation Consultant Network

“How do injured workers get back to work?”

- The unions and contractors selected an exclusive list of the best Qualified Rehabilitation Consultants to help get injured workers back to gainful work.
- These vocational experts are selected for their knowledge of the demands of the construction industry.
- These experts are trained to assist in the medical treatment plan and how to develop a plan for a safe return to work.
- If a safe return to work in the trade is not possible, the employee is assisted in resolving medical issues while finding other work as quickly as possible.