



Stay at Work/Return to Work Assistance Program

Program Goal:

To minimize avoidable disruption caused by work-related injury or occupational disease by assisting the injured worker to return to work as soon as possible in the same position if possible or a modified position with the same employer.

Program Implementation:

The Stay at Work/Return to Work (SAW/RTW) Assistance Program was implemented July 1, 2012. Assistance through the program is available to claims with injuries or occupational disease dates on or since July 1, 2012.

Program Results: (July 1, 2012 to April 30, 2014) **Updated 6-3-2014**

- 372 injured workers have responded to the program for assistance with their claim
- 134 calls were inquiry only, seeking information related to their claim and not making a request for SAW/RTW assistance
- 238 injured workers requested SAW/RTW assistance
 - Reported outcomes
 - ~~37~~ 132 injured workers returned to work with time of injury employer
 - ~~9~~ 15 injured workers quit their job
 - ~~2~~ 4 injured workers were seasonal employees, seasonal work not available
 - ~~21~~ 49 employers determined they could not provide transitional employment
 - ~~3~~ 14 injured workers could not get a medical release to return to work
 - ~~6~~ 13 claims denied, assistance service not available

Program Participation:

3 injured workers from self-insured employers – Plan 1

- 3 Request to Department
- No requests to insurer reported

12 injured workers from privately insured employers – Plan 2

- 12 Request to Department
- No requests to insurer reported

223 injured workers from employers insured at the State Fund – Plan 3

- 5 Request to Department
- 218 Requests to insurer reported

Survey:

A survey was conducted in July 2013 to assess how the program is working and to identify ways the SAW/RTW program could improve.

Survey Findings:

Cohort 1, injured workers who requested assistance through the program

- 71% report that the assistance they received through the program helped them return to work

Cohort 2, injured workers who accessed information related to their claim through the program

- 56% report that the information they received through the program helped them return to work

Cohort 3, injured workers who had indemnity (wage loss) on their claim but did not respond to the program

- 76% report that they do not recall receiving the SAW/RTW assistance notice
- 54% report that their workers' compensation insurer contacted them about returning to work
- 55% report that their employer contacted them about returning to work
- 71% report that they feel "somewhat concerned" or "worried" about their finances while on workers' compensation

SAW/RTW Assistance Program Contact Information:

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