



**Bureau of Workers'  
Compensation**



## **Substantial Aggravation of a Pre-Existing Condition**

If you are wondering why medical bills and/or treatment are being denied for an allowed substantial aggravation of a pre-existing condition, you can check our website to determine whether the condition is in a Payable or Not Payable status.

Once a decision to allow the condition is final, any substantial aggravation of a pre-existing condition will remain on the claim as an allowed condition for the life of the claim. While this condition will always remain allowed, the condition may be in a Payable or Not Payable status.

1. Payable - When a substantial aggravation of a pre-existing condition is in an allowed final status, it is flagged as a Payable condition.
2. Not Payable - When an order renders a final decision that a substantially aggravated condition is no longer Payable, the condition is updated in our system to Not Payable. This generally happens when the substantially aggravated condition returns to its pre-injury state.

When viewing substantially aggravated allowed conditions in the “diagnosis information” offering on our [website](#), you must also click on the “Yes” hyperlink in the “Substantial aggravation” column to determine if the condition status is Payable or Not Payable as shown below.

The narrative description in the following table may have been customized from the standard code description based on the medical and legal documentation.

ICD	Narrative description	Location	Site	Status	Status date	Substantial aggravation
S43.90XA	SPRAIN OF UNSP PARTS OF UNSP SHOULDER GIRDL	RIGHT	SHOULDER	ALLOWED	5/1/2018	No
M48.02	SPINAL STENOSIS, CERVICAL REGION	N/A	C5-C6	ALLOWED	10/15/2018	<a href="#">Yes</a>
M48.02	SPINAL STENOSIS, CERVICAL REGION	N/A	C6-C7	ALLOWED	7/15/2021	<a href="#">Yes</a>

  

Diagnosis information

## Substantial aggravation history

ICD  
M48.02

Narrative description  
SPINAL STENOSIS, CERVICAL REGION

Begin date	End date	Status
10/15/2018	7/15/2021	Payable
07/15/2021	N/A	Not Payable

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This new window will display the Payable dates and if applicable, the Not Payable begin date.

## Rex Blateri Named Interim Chief of Employer Services

Rex Blateri steps into a new role as Interim Chief of Employer Services along with keeping his current role as Director of premium audit.

His main priority in the role is to continue the excellent customer service we are giving now. Rex mentioned that he wants to make sure that employer services is doing everything as effectively as possible for employers and to implement new systems to automate and become as touchless as possible.

“We want the employer to be able to get to point A to point B without making a thousand stops,” Rex said. “My hope is to keep the same quality of service without us being hands on and having to manually help the employers along the way.”

Looking back, his time in the weeds and being hands on will help him be able to work with everyone and know the details that this job requires. His 28 years of experience has also taught him many things about the evolution of how we run.

“We know what works and what hasn’t worked,” Rex said. “Things that worked 20 years ago may have been right, and then didn’t work. Then all of a sudden it works again in this ever-changing business world.”

## Reimbursement for Workplace Substance Use Training Now Available

The [Substance Use Recovery & Workplace Safety Program](#) (SURWSP) offers reimbursement for employee training, policy development, and drug testing to eligible employers who enroll.

The goals of the program are to:

- Help lessen the impact of substance use disorders in the workplace.
- Promote a safe and healthy workforce.

This program is a partnership between the Bureau of Workers’ Compensation (BWC) and local Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health boards. In participating counties, this program reimburses employers for the following items:

- Up to \$2,500 for the development and legal review of employer policies and procedures about substance use issues.
- Up to 72 hours of training for employees to understand substance use and their employer’s related policies.
- Up to 72 hours of training to equip supervisors and managers to better manage the impacts of substance use in the workforce.
- Up to \$200 for drug testing of prospective and current employees who are in recovery.

Additionally, employers who enroll in SURWSP gain free access to BWC’s employee wellness incentive program [Better You! Better Ohio!](#)

Participation in the Drug-Free Safety Program (DFSP) is not required in order to participate in SURWSP. However, employers that do participate in DFSP are able to use SURWSP to get reimbursement for meeting DFSP requirements.

Employers whose policy address is in a participating county and who are current on BWC obligations and maintain active or reinstated coverage are eligible to participate. Employers can check their [account balance](#) and [coverage status](#) online. Self-insuring employers are not eligible to participate in the program. Certain eligibility restrictions apply to client employers of Professional Employer Organizations (PEOs) and Alternative Employer Organizations (AEOs). Participation in SURWSP is voluntary and enrolled employers may quit the program at any time.

Enrollment is quick and easy. For more information, visit the [Substance Use Recovery & Workplace Safety Program](#) page.

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## BWC Announces Workplace Wellness Grant Program

BWC is accepting applications for the Workplace Wellness Grant Program (WWGP). The program assists employers with the creation and implementation of a workplace wellness program.

A workplace wellness program consists of a health-risk appraisal (HRA), a biometric assessment, and programs designed to address those risk factors. Employers may receive \$300 per participating employee over a four-year period, up to a maximum amount of \$15,000 per policy.

Employers that do not have a wellness plan and meet other eligibility requirements may apply. Employers can find more information on the program, including program requirements, and complete an [application online](#).

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## OSHA Issues Emergency Temporary Standard on Occupational Exposure to COVID-19

On June 21, 2021, the United States Secretary of Labor published an [Interim Final Rule](#) "Occupational Exposure to COVID-19; Emergency Temporary Standard." The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued the emergency temporary standard to protect healthcare and healthcare support service workers from occupational exposure to COVID-19 in settings where the presence of people with COVID-19 is reasonably expected.

The [Public Employment Risk Reduction Program \(PERRP\)](#) will adopt this rule and it will be effective for public employers that provide healthcare services or healthcare support services (e.g., public hospitals, nursing homes, fire departments, and local health departments) on September 6, 2021.

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## BWC Joins Ohio Agribusiness Alliance

A new partnership is elevating workplace safety in the agriculture industry. BWC and the Ohio On-Site Consultation Program are proud to join an alliance with the Ohio Agribusiness Association and the four Ohio area offices of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to raise awareness and develop safety education and training specific to the Ohio agribusiness industry.

BWC has expertise in high-hazard industries, like agriculture. Therefore we will provide free safety and health consulting through the [Ohio On-site Consultation Program](#) and our [loss prevention services](#) to assist in addressing site-specific hazards at individual locations.

Workers in the agricultural industry face unique hazards from grain storage and processing, farm and grain handling machinery, and falls. The alliance will focus on providing information, guidance, and access to consultation and training resources that will help protect the health and safety of workers.

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## Workplace Vaccination Clinics

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is also asking businesses to partner with COVID-19 vaccine providers in their communities to offer convenient clinics that meet the scheduling needs of your employees. ODH has launched a [webpage](#) to connect businesses, organizations and [partner vaccine providers](#) with resources to plan workplace vaccinations and encourage employee participation.

To get started, visit the ODH [COVID-19 Vaccination Program for Businesses and Organizations](#) page.

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## Suggestions or Questions

While we are teleworking to help minimize the spread of COVID-19, we want to continue to provide you with the best customer service possible.

Please email us at [RepConnect](#) for:

- Suggested topic(s) you would like to see in a future RepConnect.
  - General questions you have on a claims processing issue.
  - If you know someone who wants to be added to the RepConnect distribution list.
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## Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

**Vision:** To transform BWC into an agile organization driven by customer success.

**Mission:** To deliver consistently excellent experiences for each BWC customer every day.

**Core Values:** One Agency, Personal Connection, Innovative Leadership, Relentless Excellence.

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Established in 1912, the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation is the exclusive provider of workers' compensation insurance in Ohio and serves 249,000 public and private employers. With nearly 1,700 employees and assets of approximately \$25 billion, BWC is one of the largest state-run insurance systems in the United States. For more, visit [www.bwc.ohio.gov](http://www.bwc.ohio.gov).

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