

# **QUALITY WORKERS' COMP REPORTING**

## ELEMENTS OF A QUALITY WORKERS' COMPENSATION REPORT

1. **Identify patient and referral sources;** e.g., employer referred for first time evaluation, patient referred self without contacting employer, referred by an authorized treating physician.
2. **Specify any additional sources of information reviewed;** e.g., employer job description, x-ray or lab tests, and other medical records.
3. **Record patient's history**
  - Chief complaint
  - Details of accident or exposure
  - Occupation and job duties
  - Current functional status (work related and activities of daily living)
  - Pre-existing injuries, disease and functional status
4. **Record physical exam** - Pertinent negatives are important so be sure to examine related body regions based on mechanism of injury.
5. **Describe behavioral exam when appropriate** - Always assess for signs of depression in patients with chronic pain or delayed recovery.
6. **Note any diagnostic tests** ordered and their results if known.
7. **List diagnoses** – Be specific and use ICD-9 classification. Cumulative trauma or repetitive motion is not a diagnosis!
8. **Discuss work relatedness for each diagnosis.** State your opinion as to the medical probability (greater than 50%) that the diagnosis was caused by a work accident or job duties.
9. **Describe treatment plan** - Include expected functional goals, specific length of treatment and frequency. If treatment is outside of the Colorado Medical Treatment Guidelines justify the necessity for treatment with specific functional goals.
10. **Provide detailed work and activity restrictions.** Factors to consider:
  - Posture - sitting, standing, kneeling, etc.
  - Lifting - specify waist level, overhead, repetitive
  - Repetitive movements – keyboarding, writing, pinching, tool use
  - Hot or cold environments
  - Special tasks - driving, climbing ladders, assembly line work
11. **Describe patient education provided.** Examples:
  - Self management – e.g. application of heat or cold
  - Exercises
  - Detailed explanation of activity limitation and progression
  - Natural course of condition and expected outcome.
12. **Record expected date of next visit and any specific referrals made.**