



Innovative Insurance Solutions

35+ Years of Expertise

July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## NAPEO – First Friday

How proactive communication can affect a Workers' Compensation claim: Setting your PEO and client companies up for success.



100% Focused on Workers Compensation



Creative Underwriting

### Agenda

#### What will we cover today?

- 1. Introductions Who is Key Risk?
- 2. Pitfalls of communication in WC
- 3. Initial Investigation What does success look like?
- 4. Ongoing Communication Life of the claim
- 5. Underwriting How can an effective WC claims process affect decisions

# Introductions – Who is Key Risk?

#### Mike Gilmartin

Area Vice President, Sales & Distribution

#### Glenn Miller

Director, Specialty Claims

### Ray Balcom

Specialty PEO Underwriter



### Pitfalls in Communication

- Onboarding Client Companies and PEO's
- Making Assumptions
- Information Gathering and Collaboration
- Reporting Delays
  - Setting Expectations

## Why is Communication Important?

## Collaborative Investigations Matter

In a study performed by Lockton of over 200,000 claims, they found that 67% of all denied claims ended up being paid within one year, and once those claims transition, they cost an average of 55% higher more than the original claim may have.

#### **Quick RTW Paramount**

The chances of returning to full employment after a six month absence from work due to injury drops to 55%.

#### **Process is Slow**

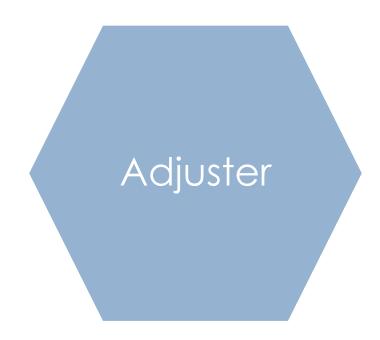
A National survey of over 10,000 injured workers found that over 23% of them found the claims process to be negative, with the most significant factor being longer claim processing leading to a negative experience.



## Initial Investigation

#### What does success look like?

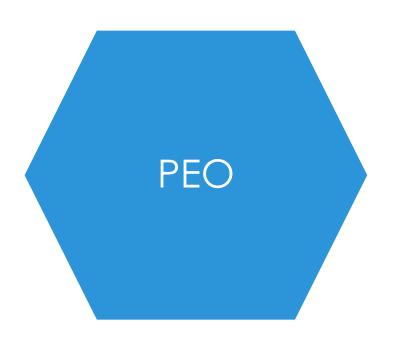
- Quick and Thorough Contact
- Explain the Process
- Efficiently gathering all information
- Setting Expectations
- Compensability the Why?



## Initial Investigation

### What is the role of the PEO in the early stages of the claim?

- Timely Reporting
- Information Gathering
- RTW Discussions
- Being Transparent-Issues & Concerns
- Setting Expectations



## Initial Investigation

## What is the role of the client company in the initial investigation?

- Reporting the claim right away to the PEO
- The eyes and ears for both the PEO and the insurance carrier
- Setting expectations early with the injured worker surrounding communication
- RTW- as quickly and safely as possible







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# Ongoing Communication – Life of the Claim

In this section we will review what proactive communication looks like through the lens of each party involved.



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# Proactive Communication - Ongoing

#### **Adjuster**

- Set Expectations Injured worker
- RTW Coordination prior to visits
- Keeping all parties informed and up to date
- Injured worker contact early and often
- Explaining the "why"
- Empathy

## Proactive Communication - Ongoing

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#### **PEO**

- Set expectations with client company
- Assist in RTW coordination
- Collaborate with carrier on any developments
- Assisting with creative RTW options- Job descriptions

# Proactive Communication - Ongoing

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### Client Company

- Boots on the ground
- Set expectations with injured worker
- Communication Times
- Check in on employee
- Show employee they are valued
- RTW discussions

### Underwriting – Why the Claims Process Matters

#### **Prevention**

PEO's that have a solid risk management/claims process in place when onboarding their clients, starting the conversations early surrounding preventing claims, expectations when they happen, as well as the importance of communication.

#### **Cost Containment**

Collaborating with the carrier in order to move the claim forward. Constantly gathering information, working on a solid RTW program with client companies and setting expectations surrounding RTW.

#### **Commitment to the Process**

PEO's that continually evaluate their client companies and promote a culture of safety, RTW, and collaboration are key. Staying committed to evaluating client companies, their protocols, and communication with their employees surrounding WC.

