

Discuss your patient's role in their recovery

Research has shown that returning to activity (including lighter work) speeds recovery and reduces the risk of becoming disabled from most work-injuries. In addition to providing good clinical care, it is important to set expectations for a good recovery and assure patients understand the importance of doing their part. Take just a couple minutes during an initial office visit to explain the following (check each one as you complete it):

Key Messages

1. "You must help in your own recovery..."

- Only you can ensure your own successful recovery.
- It's your job (and my expectation) that you follow activity recommendations (both at home and at work).

2. "Activity helps recovery..."

- Bodies heal best with activity that you can safely do, and need to do, to recover.
- Incrementally increase the activity you do a little bit, each day.
- Some discomfort is normal when returning to activities after an injury. This is not harmful, and is different from pain that indicates a setback.

3. "Early and safe return to work makes sense..."

- Return to work is one of the goals of treatment.
- The longer you are off work, the harder it is to get back to your original job and wages.
- Even a short time off work takes money out of your pocket because time loss payments do not pay your full wage.

To be paid for this form, providers must:

1. Submit this form:
 - With reports of accident when there are work related physical restrictions, or
 - When documenting a change in your patient's medical status or capacities.
2. Complete all relevant sections of the form.
3. Send chart notes and reports as required.

Important notes

- A provider may submit up to 6 APFs per worker within the first 60 days of the initial visit date and then up to 4 times per 60 days thereafter.
- Use this form to communicate expectations of the patient to be physically active during recovery, work status, activity restrictions, and treatment plans.
- This form will also certify time-loss compensation, if appropriate.
- Occupational and physical therapists, office staff, and others will not be paid for working on this form.

To learn how to complete this form, go to

www.Lni.wa.gov/activityRX.

About impairment ratings

We encourage you, the qualified attending health-care provider, to rate your patient's permanent impairment. If this claim is ready to close, please examine the worker and send a rating report.

Qualified attending health-care providers include doctors currently licensed in medicine and surgery (including osteopathic and podiatric) or dentistry, and chiropractors who are department-approved examiners.

Thank you for treating this injured worker.