

# CareWorks

## Additional BWC RX Program Changes

### **“Community Fights Prescription Drug Abuse” “Prescription Drug Abuse is an Epidemic in Ohio” “Prescription Drug Abuse Taking Toll in Southern Ohio”**

You have probably seen headlines similar to this in your local newspaper and on the internet. There is certainly great concern for our injured workers and others who get caught in the death grip of highly addictive prescription drugs.

That is why the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) recently announced some changes that will impact the way they manage their pharmacy review program.

Beginning January 1, 2012, when a claim is sent for a prescription review, the recent medications prescribed to the injured worker will be clinically assessed by CareWorks staff.

If the CareWorks clinician determines that a prescription review is appropriate, the claim will be referred to the Pharmacy Unit at BWC. The Pharmacy Unit will send the claim to a physician for a medical opinion regarding the appropriateness of the medications being prescribed to the injured worker.

If the reviewing physician opines that the current medications are inappropriate for the allowed conditions in the claim, BWC will issue an order to deny future payment of those medications.

With the abuse of prescription medications becoming a national epidemic, it is important that medications being prescribed to injured workers are properly monitored. If there is a claim that you would like to refer for a prescription review, please contact your individually assigned CareWorks Account Executive.

While not responsible for the administration or payment of BWC prescription benefits, CareWorks has always taken great pride in our proactive review of medications in work related injuries. Based upon our reviews, we have identified many instances where medications were either inappropriately prescribed, or paid under a wrong claim. These reviews have resulted in savings for CareWorks clients.

**If you have any questions regarding this article, please feel free to contact Ron Lucki at (614) 760-3510 or email [ron.lucki@careworks.com](mailto:ron.lucki@careworks.com)**