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# REGIONAL

— **POOL WORKSHOPS** —

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# Medical Treatment and the Alliance

**Current Roles and Future Goals!**



**POLITICAL SUBDIVISION  
WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
ALLIANCE**



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# Objectives for the Day

- Provide an overview of medical benefits and the Political Subdivision Workers' Compensation Alliance (the Alliance)
- Review Alliance performance in 2017
- Define the employer's role
- Identify certain challenges in the system
- Discuss future Alliance initiatives



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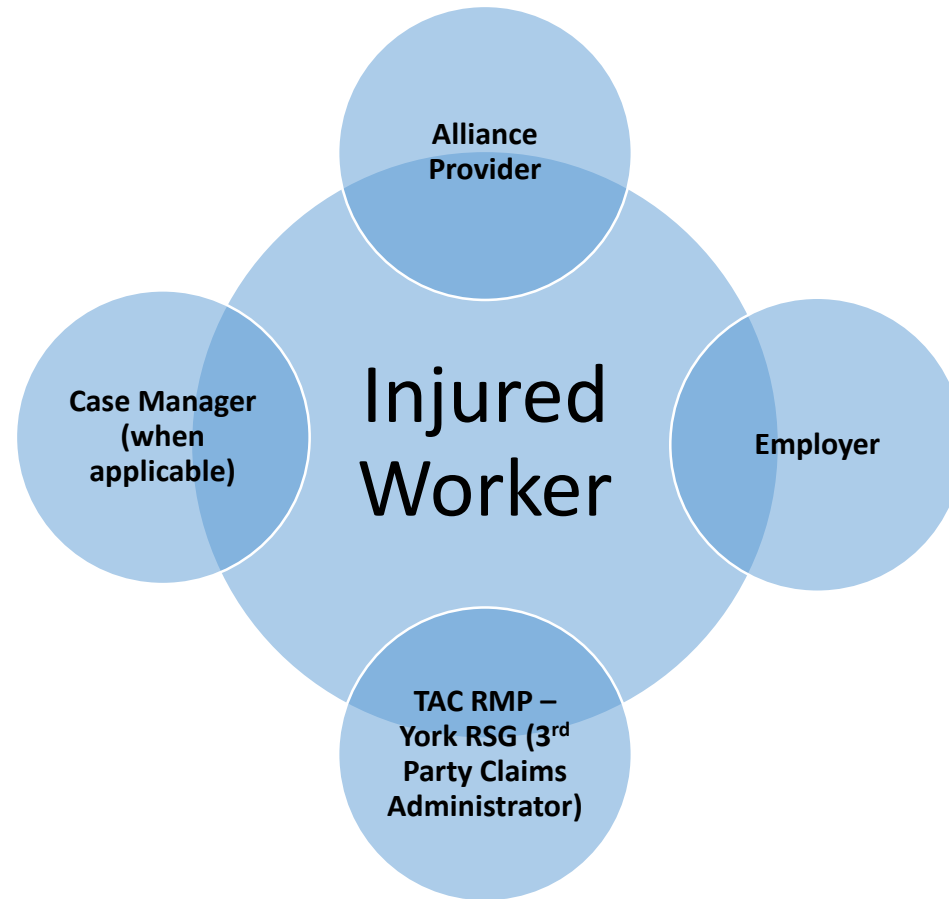
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# The Process of Medical Treatment



# Medical Benefits

## Labor Code Sec. 408.021. ENTITLEMENT TO MEDICAL BENEFITS.

Healthcare  
reasonably  
required by the  
nature of injury

Cures or relieves  
the effects  
naturally resulting  
from injury

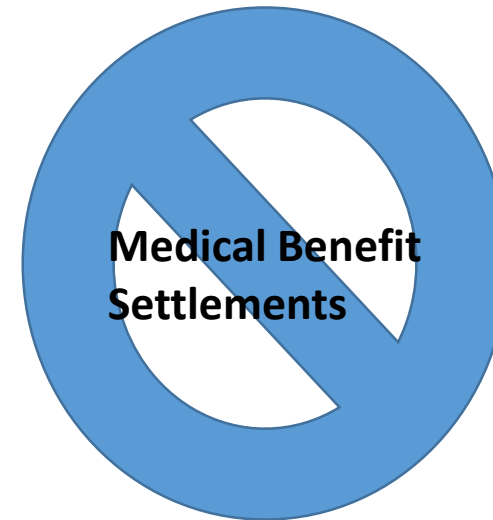
Promotes recovery

Enhances ability of  
employee to retain  
or return to  
employment



# More about Medical Benefits

- Except in emergency, all health care must be approved or recommended by the treating doctor
- Liability for medical benefits may not be limited or terminated by agreement or settlement



# What is the Alliance?

- Chapter 504.053
  - 2005 workers' compensation reforms allowed Texas public entities to directly contract with health care providers to deliver care to injured employees

5 Pools represent the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest coverage provider in the state

Alliance serves more than 3,000 public employers (500,000 employees)

Alliance providers treat 22,000 injured employees per year



## The Alliance structure



Some Alliance risk pools cover several types of public entities.

Political Subdivision Workers' Compensation Alliance (PSWCA)



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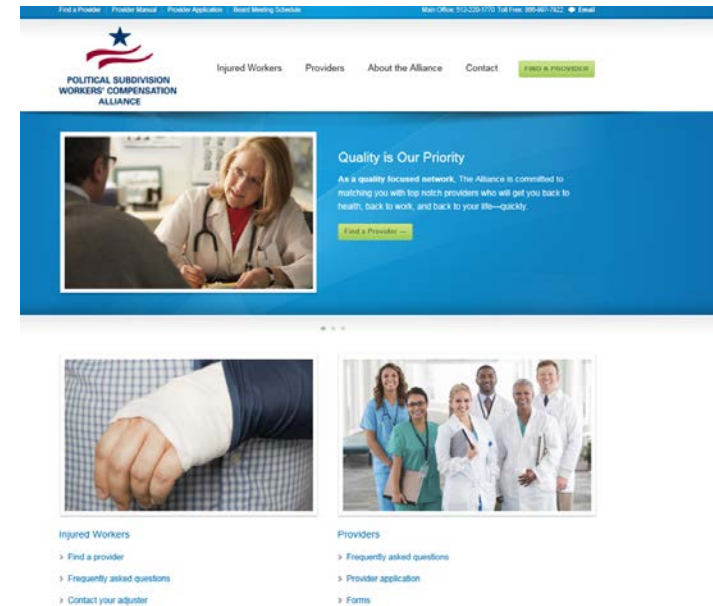
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# Member Role and Influence

- Provide employee paperwork, ensure posting is current and have employee acknowledgement signed if at all possible
- Guide injured workers to PSWCA Website: [www.pswca.org](http://www.pswca.org) when they are injured
- Working with occupational clinics is a plus!



# More on the Member's Role

- Employers can nominate providers to participate
- Keep employees connected to the work place
  - Call periodically and just check on them
  - Advocacy-based workers' compensation is a real movement
- Think about your business needs and how and if the employee fits into the mix – RTW?

**How can you positively affect the loss and loss runs for your county or related entity?**



# Alliance Participation in the TAC RMP

- Voluntary for members
- 4% discount off coverage cost for those who participate
- Currently, we have 163 members participating in the Alliance



# The Alliance and Annual Network Report Card

- WC Network Report Card – Annual review by Research and Evaluation Group (REG)
- Compares performance of each network (17)
  - Health care costs
  - Utilization
  - Satisfaction with care
  - Access to care
  - Return to work, and
  - Health outcomes



# 2017 Success in the Alliance

- Alliance had 22,819 claims, second largest network in the state
- Based on the WCN Report Card
  - Average medical costs per claim were \$1,958
    - 12% lower than 2016
  - Lowest average medical costs since the report card began in 2009
  - Average pharmacy costs per claim were \$145
    - 23% decrease compared to 2016



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# 2017 Success in the Alliance (cont.)

- Claim development from 6 to 18 months was among the lowest of all networks at 18%
- 81% of Alliance injured employees reported satisfaction with treating doctor
- 79% of Alliance injured employees reported the medical care received was the same or better than care received when injured or sick outside of work
- 61% of Alliance injured employees were treated on the same day of their injury
  - 85% receiving care within the first 7 days
- 96% of Alliance injured employees reported they went back to work at some point after their injury



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# WC System Challenges

- Access to care/physician shortage
- Doctors not accepting WC
- Provider consolidation
- Administrative burden
- Educating providers new to the system
- Increasing costs for medical care

How is the Alliance addressing these challenges?



# Alliance Initiatives

- Provider recruitment—seeking partnerships with medical schools
- Provider education & feedback
- Telemedicine Pilot
- Data analytics system to measure provider outcomes & drive improvements
- Working with vendors to address need for dental treatment in WC claims



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# Questions?

Thank you for attending today!

## **Key Contacts:**

Stacy Corluccio, TAC Claims Manager:

(512) 478-8753, ext. 3634

Helana Barmore, York RSG WC Claims Manager:

(512) 427-2415

Phil Hambrick & Teresa Gonzalez, PSWCA :

(512) 220-1846



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