Texas Association of Counties

REGIONAL

POOL WORKSHOPS

RESOURCES AND SOLUTIONS FOR COUNTIES

VARIOUS LOCATIONS | FALL 2018
Medical Treatment and the Alliance

Current Roles and Future Goals!
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
The Process of Medical Treatment

Injured Worker

Alliance Provider

Employer

TAC RMP – York RSG (3rd Party Claims Administrator)

Case Manager (when applicable)
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 2nd 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

Members/Employers ➔ Purchase coverage and services ➔ Risk pools ➔ These risk pools manage the claims and fund the Alliance ➔ The Alliance contracts with healthcare providers and manages the network to treat injured workers

Schools and Community Colleges ➔ Texas Association of School Boards Risk Management Fund
Cities and other units of local government ➔ Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool
Counties and special districts ➔ Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool
Community centers ➔ Texas Council Risk Management Fund
Water districts and authorities ➔ Texas Water Conservation Association Risk Management Fund

Some Alliance risk pools cover several types of public entities.

Political Subdivision Workers’ Compensation Alliance (PSWCA)
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
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
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
Questions?

Thank you for attending today!

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