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North Carolina Industrial Commission

Summary of the North Carolina Industrial Commission's Rules for Utilization of Rehabilitation Professionals

A rehabilitation professional (RP) is a medical case manager, coordinator of medical services or vocational rehabilitation professional who works independently with you towards rehabilitation during your workers' compensation claim. Your RP has education and training required by the Industrial Commission (IC) and must act ethically and follow the attached rules.

You must participate in rehabilitation and communicate regularly with your RP. If your RP believes that you are not complying, your RP will detail in writing the actions you are required to take to return to compliance. Your weekly benefits could be stopped if you are ordered to comply with rehabilitation and fail to do so.

You are strongly encouraged to read the attached rules so that you will understand your rights and responsibilities and the role of your RP in your workers' compensation case. If you have questions about the Rules, talk with your RP. However, your RP cannot give legal advice or investigate or settle your case. If you have questions about your RP or the rules, you may also contact the Industrial Commission Information Specialists at (919) 807-2501 or speak with your attorney.

Medical Rehabilitation Professionals

A nurse case manager (NCM) will:

- give you a copy of the Rules for Utilization of Rehabilitation Professionals and ask you to sign a Form 25C so that the NCM can get medical records for your injury
- tell you and your doctors about any conflicts
- plan for and manage your medical treatment and evaluate results
- talk with you about treatment choices without deciding on one plan
- either meet with you and your doctor after a private exam or, if you like, attend the exam with you
- help you return to work by sharing your work restrictions and job description with your employer and doctor or recommend vocational rehabilitation
- speak with your doctor without you present, but only in some situations such as a medical emergency, to obtain records, or schedule an appointment
- write a report that details conversations the NCM has had with you and your doctors
- assist with scheduling special appointments, if appropriate

This is only a summary of the North Carolina Industrial Commission Rules for Utilization of Rehabilitation Professionals. Nothing in this summary shall alter the meaning of the Workers' Compensation Act or the North Carolina Industrial Commission Rules for Utilization of Rehabilitation Professionals.