Washington State Labor & Industries Workers’ Compensation at Hanford

Hanford Site Points of Contact for WRPS employees:

**Teena Taber**, WRPS, Workers’ Compensation Representative  
509-372-3639

**Patty Hicks**, Penser, Third Party Administrator  
509-420-7290

**Juli Yamauchi**, DOE, Program Manager for Site Workers’ Compensation  
509-438-3383

Jan. 2017
Background/Facts

- DOE is Self-Insured under Washington State Labor and Industries (L&I) and provides workers’ compensation coverage under this Self-Insurance to our prime contractors. As a Washington State self-insurer, DOE is required to follow all Washington State rules and regulations that govern the L&I workers’ compensation process.

- The self-insurance section at L&I provides oversight of DOE’s self-insurance program, and performs compliance audits.

- Workers covered by self-insurance are covered under the same industrial insurance laws as workers who are covered by state fund insurance.
How Claims Are Administered

- Penser administers claims filed by Hanford workers per Title 51 of the Revised Code of Washington
- Only L&I has the authority to approve or deny claims (Not Penser, DOE, or contractors)
Compensability

- For both an injury and occupational disease claims, a medical condition must be diagnosed and the medical condition diagnosed must be related to the incident and/or job duties on a “more probable than not basis”

- It is not sufficient that a physician indicate “possibly” or “may” be the cause

Workers Role

- Report the injury to your employer
- Request a Self Insurer Accident Report (SIF2) from your Worker’s Compensation Representative (WCR)
- See a doctor of your choice
- The doctor will complete the Physician’s Initial Report (PIR) form
- The doctor mails the completed PIR to the Third Party Administrator (TPA)
Workers Responsibility

- You need to tell the doctor if you feel the injury or disease is work related
- Respond timely to requests for information from the WCR or Penser:
  - prior medical
  - attending physician contact information
  - correct personal contact information
  - work history
- Communication with your claims examiner will help you understand the process

Benefits Covered

- Medical treatment/bills
- Wage compensation
- Vocational services
- Permanent partial disability
Ten things you need to know about your claim from the Office of the Ombudsman for Injured Workers of Self-Insured Businesses

- You cannot waive your rights under Washington industrial insurance law.
- You have the right to choose your attending physician.
- You cannot be discriminated against for filing a claim.
- If you are unable to work as a result of your injury or occupational disease, you will be paid a portion of your wages.
- A protest or appeal to an order must be made in writing. Follow the instructions on the order.
- You are entitled to a copy of your claim file from your employer or your employer’s third party administrator (TPA).
- Keep copies of all your claim related information.
- Attend your medical appointments and follow your prescribed treatment plan.
- Keep in contact with your employer.
- Do not ignore work-related medical bills sent to you. Contact your employer or the TPA. Health-care providers should bill your employer or TPA directly for work-related treatment.
Frequently Asked Questions from the Office of the Ombudsman for Injured Workers of Self-Insured Businesses

My employer is self-insured for workers' compensation. Am I entitled to the same coverage as an employee who works for a state fund employer?

Yes. All Washington workers are covered under the same industrial insurance law.

Who manages my workers' compensation claim?

Your employer may self administer industrial insurance claims, or contract with a third party administrator to manage the claims.

How do I obtain a copy of my claim file?

Send a written request to your employer or third-party administrator (TPA). You are entitled to one copy of your file and any updates. You may be charged for duplicate copies.

How is time-loss compensation calculated?

Time-loss rates can vary from 60 to 75 percent of your total wages up to a statutory limit. Your time-loss compensation rate is calculated based upon your total wages at the time of injury, your marital status and number of dependents. The self-insured employer or third-party administrator (TPA) must provide a copy of forms SIF-5 and SIF-5A to you on the date of the first time-loss payment. These forms contain the information used to calculate your benefits. Review them carefully.
Frequently Asked Questions from the Office of the Ombudsman for Injured Workers of Self-Insured Businesses (continued)

Am I allowed to choose my health care provider?

Yes. Under Washington state industrial insurance law, you have the right to select your health care provider from within the Medical Provider Network. The provider you select must be qualified to treat your condition.

I was scheduled for an independent medical exam (IME). Do I have to attend?

Yes. The law allows the department or self insurer to arrange for an IME to resolve medical issues. (RCW 51.36.070). The exam should be scheduled at a location reasonably convenient for you. You will be reimbursed for your time and travel expenses to attend the examination. (RCW 51.32.110)

I received a bill from my health care provider for injury-related treatment. What do I do?

Contact your employer or third-party administrator immediately. All injury related medical bills should be sent directly to them for payment.
Other Resources For Information:

Juli Yamauchi
Program Manger for Hanford Site Workers’ Compensation

http://www.hanford.gov/AboutUS/Hanfordsitewideprograms/hanfordworkerscompensation

Self insurance section of the Washington State
Department of Labor & Industries
Phone: 360-92-6901

Website: http://www.lni.wa.gov/Main/WorkerTopics.asp

Department of Labor & Industries/Office of the Self Insured Ombudsman -
“The Office of the Ombuds advocates for the rights of injured workers of self-
insured employers by providing information, investigating complaints and taking
action to ensure the worker receives the appropriate benefits under Washington
state industrial insurance law.”
Phone: 1-888-317-0493

Website: Ombudsman.Selfinsured.wa.gov

To locate a provider: findadoc@lni.wa.gov
The worker sustained an injury or occupational disease while in the course of employment with a self-insured employer.

This claim is allowed. The worker is entitled to receive medical treatment and other benefits as appropriate under the industrial insurance laws.