

# ***Benefit Management Services of Ohio***



**WORKERS' COMPENSATION SPECIALISTS**

## **BENEFIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES OF OHIO, INC.**

### **COMP BITS**

### **AUGUST, 2014 ISSUE**

- **Very important reminder** – the group-rating enrollment deadline has been changed by BWC. The enrollment deadline is now November 24, 2014 – three months earlier than previous years. **Very important** that you return your group-rating renewal forms to us no later than November 17<sup>th</sup> 2014. Call us if you have not received your renewal packet.
- BWC is changing to a new premium billing system for 2015 which will allow BWC to change from retrospective billing to prospective billing. Meaning that your premiums will now be due before coverage is extended rather than after. To ease the burden of this change, BWC is going to give all Ohio employers an eight month credit, so you will only have to pay four months of premiums which will be due on July 1, 2015.
- Deadlines to be aware of:
  - 9-30-14: BWC experience snapshot for private employers or 3-31-15 for public
  - 11-24-14: 2015 group-rating enrollment deadline
  - 1-30-15: 2015 group retro enrollment deadline
  - 7-1-15: begin prospective payment of premiums to BWC
  - 7-3-15: confirmation of payroll for the previous 6 month period (Jan-July 2015)

- An employer who commits two or more VSSR's in a 2 year period may be assessed an additional penalty of up to \$50,000 for each violation. Is your safety program up to par?
- The penalty for a VSSR award is 15-50% of the compensation paid out in a claim.
- BWC has announced a \$1 billion rebate to business owners and municipal and county governments. Employers can expect to receive a 60% rebate from BWC by October.
- Discounts available from BWC include the following:
  - Industry Specific Safety Program – 3%
  - Transitional Work Program – 10%
  - Drug-Free Safety Program – 4% basic program or 7% advanced program
  - Safety Councils – 2% rebate for participation and 2% performance bonus
  - Go-Green Discount – 1% up to \$1000 every six month period
  - Lapse-free Discount – 1% up to \$1000 every six month period
- Employers participating in the BWC One Claim Program must complete a ½ day (3 hour) or 1 day (6 hour) class through the BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene.
- Employers in years 2-4 of the One Claim Program can complete three hours of online training through the BWC website or complete the training classroom style through BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene. This training was to have been completed by 6-30-14. Any company not completing the required training will not be renewed into the One Claim Program for 2014 rating year.
- Does your company have a current safety manual with the required policies and forms to protect you in the event of an OSHA inspection?
- Does your company provide and document all OSHA required safety training? Records of required training must be retained by your company to prove completion of the training in a timely manner.
- BMSO also provides the following services:
  - group-rating program discounts
  - group retro programs – discounts for penalty rated employers
  - total risk management services – safety audits, safety manuals, safety training, current safety & environmental program compliance evaluations
  - unemployment compensation services
- BMSO is endorsed by over 30 chambers of commerce and trade associations for the quality of service provided to their membership.