

# Illinois

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## Workers' Compensation Preferred Provider Program (WC PPP)

As a result of the 2011 Illinois Workers' Compensation reform act, Illinois employers now have the ability to direct their injured workers into a Workers' Compensation Preferred Provider Program (WC PPP) for their medical treatment. On March 2013, the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission (IWCC) introduced the required approval process to become a WC PPP under the reformed law. Approval of a WC PPP goes through the Department of Insurance (DOI), but administration of the WC PPP requirements is handled through the IWCC. Genex Services was approved as a WC PPP on September 18, 2013.

### Employee benefits

- Access to statewide occupationally focused provider network
- Employee "opt-out" option and change of physician options
- Access to "out-of-network" medical care under certain conditions
- Timely medical treatment from both primary and specialty physicians

### Employer benefits

- Direction of care and channeling of injured employees to participating providers
- An employer is not liable for medical services provided by a non-authorized provider when an employee has been given proper notice about WC PPP
- Continuity of care using network providers

### Payer benefits

- Timely reporting
- Early case intervention when needed
- Internally developed guidelines to assure that the right resources are deployed at the right time
- Proactive communication between the Genex team of clinical experts and payer's staff

### Fast Facts

- HB 1698 signed into law June 28, 2011 and rules published March 15, 2013
- HB 1698 allows employers to utilize a WC PPP
- Genex certified as a WC PPP on September 18, 2013
- WC PPP is a voluntary program
- Access to statewide WC provider network along with Genex Specialty Networks
- Access to initial care in three days and specialty care within 20 days

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## Legislation

Illinois Workers' Compensation Act, 820 ILCS 305/8.1a, allows for the provision of medical treatment to injured employees by an employer utilizing a preferred provider program, approved by the Illinois Department of Insurance as in compliance with Sections 370k, 370l, 370m, and 370p of Article XX-112 of the Illinois Insurance Code.

## Required components

- Comprehensive occupational and non-occupational network that are qualified to treat common injuries experienced by injured workers
- Specific access standards and medical appointment standards (initial and specialty) to ensure injured employees receive timely medical care within reasonable times and in distances from home
- Employee Notice of WC PPP requirements using Illinois DOI-approved forms
- Channeling/direction of care to WC PPP with employee option to "opt-out" of WC PPP, which must be in writing
- Policies and parameters for arranging or approving non-emergency medical care outside the WC PPP service area
- Policies for providing care outside the WC PPP if there is no provider qualified to treat an injured employee's compensable workers' compensation injury
- Toll-free numbers for employees/employers and payers to secure WC PPP provider listings/directories
- Compliance with ADA of 1990

## Responsibilities

- Execute Illinois-specific agreement or addendum to existing contract
- For self-insured clients, Genex files copies of executed agreements with Illinois DOI
- Carrier clients must file WC Insurer Preferred Provider Program Checklist and Genex WC PPP Administrator policies via Illinois SERFF system
- Payor: Identify WC PPP claim via WC PPP "flag" in claim feed
- Educate employees on Illinois WC PPP requirements
- Provide Injured Worker Employee Notice at time of injury (WC PPP Notice of Preferred Provider Program for WC Medical Care)
- Distribute WC PPP Advisory Form to all covered employees prior to effective date of WC PPP (optional but recommended) and post at the worksite

For over 35 years, Genex has helped customers manage disability and lost productivity costs through a full portfolio of consumer-focused managed care services. Our expertise is the result of a unique blend of clinical, informational, and technological knowledge that helps us optimize the outcome of each case — outcomes that are further enhanced by managing worksite injuries in an MCO environment.



### Plan administrator

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