Workers' Comp

5 Must-Know Home Modification Tips

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Managing an injured employee's transition back to daily life involves more than just overseeing their medical treatment; it requires ensuring their living environment supports recovery. Home modifications play a crucial role in making spaces more accessible and functional. The primary goal is to transform spaces into safe, independent and healing environments, fostering a setting where injured employees can regain their sense of self-sufficiency.

1. Start with a Comprehensive Needs Assessment
An occupational therapist usually conducts an early evaluation to identify the injured employee's key needs. Considerations might include whether their disabilities are temporary or permanent, the types of equipment they use (e.g., wheelchairs or lifts) and their overall mobility challenges. This assessment forms the foundation of any effective home modification strategy, ensuring that modifications address the specific needs of the individual.

2. Involve the Injured Employee in the Process
The importance of involving the injured employee and their family members at every stage of the modification process cannot be overstated. Their input ensures that the modifications will adequately support their daily activities and overall wellbeing. Considering such personal preferences and emotional needs is crucial for a successful outcome.

3. Prioritize Safety and Independence
Home modifications should aim to create a safer, more independent environment for the injured employee. Key modifications might include installing handrails, widening doorways for wheelchair access, or setting up a walk-in shower. Each alteration is geared towards preventing falls, promoting physical health and enhancing the injured employee's functional independence within their home.

4. Expect and Prepare for Challenges
Home modification is rarely straightforward so anticipate potential obstacles, such as a heated housing market or properties that aren't suitable for necessary modifications. Partnering with an experienced home modification coordinator can help mitigate challenges, ensuring that the individual's needs continue to be met efficiently.

5. Evaluate the Effectiveness of Modifications
An evaluation will determine if the injured employee can now safely and comfortably perform daily activities or if additional adjustments are needed. Involving the injured employee in this assessment process can further enhance satisfaction and ensure the modifications genuinely support their recovery and independence.

When home modifications are needed, trust a specialty solutions provider to identify reputable occupational therapists and other experts who can determine the appropriate modifications. They will collaborate with experienced vendors, ensuring modifications are completed correctly and promptly. Additionally, specialty providers can coordinate various touchpoints, manage multiple contractors, obtain quotes, check references and ensure both quality and cost efficiency.

Whether it's home health, durable medical equipment, diagnostics or another specialty service, Apricus Specialty Solutions offer a one-stop-shop experience to make sure those recovering from an injury get what they need, when they need it.

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