Workers' Comp

7 Tips for Managing Prosthetics in Workers' Compensation

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Work-related injuries involving limb or other losses are rare but tragic for any individual and require sensitive care coordination. The complexity and high costs associated with prosthetics require detailed attention to ensure both the well-being of the injured employee and cost-effective management. Here are key insights and strategies to optimize outcomes in these sensitive cases:

1. Understand the Importance of Prosthetics
Prosthetics do more than just replace a lost limb; they play a pivotal part in an injured employee's rehabilitation and reintegration into their work and daily life. Ensuring that each individual receives the right prosthetic care can significantly impact their recovery path, boosting their morale
and productivity.

2. Acknowledge the Psychological Impact
Recognizing the significant emotional and psychological impact of amputation on an injured employee is crucial. Providing support throughout the prosthetic adjustment process helps in addressing any grief and acceptance challenges. The visible commitment to returning them to a semblance of their former selves can dramatically improve their mental and emotional outlook.

3. Conduct Comprehensive Evaluations
Thorough evaluations are vital to assess the unique needs of an individual, considering their work requirements, hobbies and lifestyle. These assessments must go beyond the immediate need for a prosthetic and include long-term planning for replacements, adjustments and maintenance to support an active, fulfilling life.

4. Collaborate with a Specialty Solutions Provider
Collaborating with experienced prosthetic providers like Apricus Specialty Solutions who understand the nuances of different types of prosthetics can make all the difference. A broad network ensures access to the right expertise and equipment, facilitating tailored solutions that align with each individual's needs and goals.

5. Implement Effective Cost Management Strategies
While amputations are the costliest type of injury in workers' compensation, effective strategies include leveraging a specialty solution to find high-quality providers, focusing on comprehensive upfront evaluations to prevent costly adjustments later, and ensuring that each prosthetic is fully utilized and maintained. This approach not only manages costs but also enhances the injured employee's experience and outcome.

6. Remember Prosthetics Are Custom Made
Each prosthetic is custom-made, often requiring multiple moldings and adjustments. Careful planning is needed to avoid unnecessary expenses on recasting or excessive wear and tear. Reliable providers will manage maintenance and warranties and a quality provider should routinely check in with the injured employee to ensure the prosthetic is in good condition and complies with its warranty.

7. Allocate Time for Prosthetics
It's important to recognize that no prosthetic lasts a lifetime. Many injured employees must wait six months to a year or more for swelling to subside before they can be properly fitted. Some may require additional surgeries or therapies in preparation. As time passes and disabilities progress or change, new prosthetics and replacements will eventually be necessary.

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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