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# Five Initial Evaluation Issues That May Delay Return to Work

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You only get one chance to make a first impression. This common phrase is especially true in establishing a positive relationship between an injured employee and the treating physician in a workers' compensation case.

A thorough initial evaluation sets the course for a successful return-to-work protocol. When individuals are injured on the job, they often don't know what to expect. They want answers and reassurance and often look to their physician for their medical expertise. Conversely, when important factors are missed in this first meeting, it can significantly delay the injured employee's progress, resulting in lost productivity and higher claim costs.

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