Workers' Comp

Specialty Solutions Spotlight: How to Keep Workers' Compensation Home Modifications on Time and on Budget

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How can you keep home modifications on time, on budget and aligned to medical necessity?

Home modifications for injured employees can sprawl in scope and cost, adding administrative work and exposing the claim to delays, change orders and reauthorizations. Partnering with an experienced workers' compensation home modification coordinator like Apricus can simplify the process, increase transparency and keep every project aligned to clear milestones that control scope, cost and timelines.

Home modifications involve everything from installing railings and ramps to widening doorways to major renovations that help injured employees live as independently, safely and productively as possible. Adjusters are responsible for accommodating this functionality at a level comparable to what previously existed without letting modifications creep out of scope or drive up costs. A structured approach reduces paperwork and helps prevent additional hospital/facility stays, secondary injuries and change orders while supporting recovery.

When to Involve a Coordinator

Contact a home modification coordinator when discharge planning begins, mobility equipment is introduced or when the current home presents obvious barriers. This coordinator becomes your dedicated point of contact to guide the process, working directly with vendors, and keeping the project on track. Engaging early helps compress timelines and prevent redesigns.

What to Confirm Before Starting Modifications

Home modification should begin with a clinical needs assessment, usually performed by an occupational therapist. The assessment should include a concise summary of functional goals and daily activities, equipment in use or anticipated, layout constraints, who will be providing daily support and should consider the following:

- Determine whether limitations are temporary, progressive or permanent
- Define the target level of independence
- Verify ownership status and landlord, HOA or permit constraints
- Map access at entries and between levels, and identify bottlenecks such as bathroom, kitchen and primary entry
- List current and planned equipment, including size, turning radius and power requirements

Involve the injured employee and their family so plans match their daily life, encourage buy-in and reinforce the goal of safe, sustainable independence.

What "Appropriate to the Injury" Means

Aim for functional access and safety that match the injured employee's needs at a reasonable, comparable standard to the pre?injury environment. For some, that's grab bars and threshold ramps. For long-term wheelchair use, that may include a roll-in shower and widened doors. Document why each modification is medically necessary and how it supports daily activities to ensure each project stays within accommodation requirements.

When Not to Modify

Not every property is mod-ready. If landlord or HOA rules block changes, minimum clearances can't be met or major reframing or rewiring would be required, compare the timeline and cost of relocation. In complex cases, your modification coordinator can help weigh options that preserve safety and independence and ensure appropriate cost containment.

Prevent Scope Creep and Cost Surprises

Treat the project like a construction job with defined milestones to reduce change orders, keep payments predictable and minimize surprises during the final walkthrough. To ensure a successful project, your modification coordinator should:

- Solicit three competitive bids with labor and materials broken out
- Use credentialed, insured contractors and check references
- Have a project plan that includes pre?site measurements, drawings and a clear sequence of work
- Require milestone approvals for demo, rough?in and final finish, each with sign?off and photos
- Keep the adjuster, case manager, contractors and the injured employee aligned through ongoing communication

How Apricus Can Support You

Apricus provides nationwide home modification services with vetted, credentialed contractors and competitive bidding that achieves an average 17% cost savings and 97% injured employee satisfaction. Each project follows a structured review process that verifies progress and quality at every stage, creating predictability and documented accountability. Dedicated modification coordinators manage the process from referral to sign?off,

keeping all parties aligned through tracking and communication. Apricus can also connect you to related specialty solutions such as custom mobility equipment, vehicle modification, physical medicine and home health services, so you can work with one source.

Home modifications succeed when qualified experts build the plan and documented checkpoints control cost and quality. Engage early, insist on competitive bids and keep the team aligned. You will reduce change orders and reauthorizations, support safe independence at home and protect your claim's bottom line.

This information is meant to serve as a general overview, and any specific questions should be fully reviewed with a health care professional or specialty service provider.

To make a referral for home modifications, durable medical equipment and other services, call us today at 877.203.9899 or send an email to apricus.referrals@enlyte.com.



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