

# Claims Reporting Policy and Procedures

**New Mexico** 

Email all completed forms WITHIN 4 HOURS of notification of an injury to:

wcclaim@hrdelivered.com

#### **OSHA** - REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

#### What needs to be reported to OSHA?

all employers must report:

- All work-related fatalities within 8 hours.
- All work-related inpatient hospitalizations, all amputations and all losses of an eye within **24** hours.

You can report to OSHA by:

- Calling OSHA's free and confidential number at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742)
- > Calling your closest OSHA Area Office during normal business hours
- Using the online form https://www.osha.gov/ords/ser/serform.html

#### **Information Required When Filing a Report**

- Establishment name
- Location of the incident
- Time of the incident
- Type of reportable event
- Number of employees injured / deceased
- Names of injured / deceased
- Your contact person and phone number
- Description of incident

Only fatalities occurring within 30 days of the work-related incident must be reported to OSHA. Further, for an inpatient hospitalization, amputation or loss of an eye, these incidents must be reported to OSHA only if they occur within 24 hours of the work-related incident.

Because of the time restraints, **YOU**, the on-site employer should notify OSHA of all reportable events using one of the methods described above. If however, you notify HRDelivered in time and with <u>ALL</u> of the required information, we would be happy to assist you by notifying OSHA on your behalf. When calling HRDelivered for assistance in this matter, <u>please be clear in stating that you wish for HRDelivered to contact OSHA to report the accident</u>.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact (239) 703-8470 Or wcclaim@hrdelivered.com.

### **Claims Reporting Forms and Procedures**

All forms and medical paperwork are to be emailed to the Claims Center at wcclaim@hrdelivered.com

First Report of Injury (FROI)	Complete this form IMMEDIATELY. Do not wait until other forms are completed.  Submit to the HRDelivered Claims Center via email or fax within 4 hours of the accident.  A sample form has been included as a reference.  If an employee requires medical treatment, YOU are required to contact the clinic and arrange the first visit.
AR-1 Employee Injury/Illness Accident Report	Form needs to be completed by the injured worker <b>ASAP</b> following an accident and basic first aid or medical treatment.
AR-2 Supervisor's Accident Investigation Report	Form needs to be completed every time an employee is involved in a work-related injury or accident.  This form is also to be used for "Report Only" incidents that do not require medical attention.  Form should be completed and submitted with the FROI within 4 hours of the accident.  This form will assist the supervisor with conducting a thorough investigation
AR-3 Witness Statement Form	Form needs to be completed whenever there is a witness to an accident.  Have all witnesses complete this form immediately following the incident, while the facts are clear. Once completed, the form should be signed and returned to the Claims Center via email or fax.
Chain of Custody Drug Test Form	Post Accident drug tests are mandatory and must be performed within 4 hours and no later than 8 hours of the incident.  Send or escort the employee to the nearest Labcorp or Quest facility with the Chain of Custody form.  Labcorp can be found at <a href="https://www.labcorp.com/labs-and-appointments">https://www.labcorp.com/labs-and-appointments</a> . Quest locations can be found at <a href="https://www.questdiagnostics.com/locations/search">https://www.questdiagnostics.com/locations/search</a> . Please call (239) 703-8470 for assistance.
AR-4 Consent for Release of Medical Information	Form needs to be completed and sent to HRD <u>if/when the employee seeks medical treatment</u> . This completed form proves our ability (HRD / the carrier) to request and receive medical documents relating to the claim directly from the treating facility.
AR-5 Medical Authorization for Initial Treatment	Form should be sent with the injured employee to the medical provider.  Fill in the employee's name and Social Security Number before employee seeks treatment.
AR-6 Refusal of Medical Treatment	If an employee reports an incident but <u>refuses medical treatment</u> , have them complete this form <u>immediately</u> .  This is not a waiver for all medical treatment. The employee may choose at a later date to seek medical treatment if necessary, however, they <u>MUST follow the state mandated guidelines</u> for Workers Compensation injuries. They <u>cannot</u> go to their personal physician or an ER without prior authorization from the Claims Center.  A post accident drug screen <u>may/may not be required</u> when an employee signs this form. Please call HRD for guidance.
Medical Treatment and Paperwork	After any and all medical treatment(s), employees are required to supply the employer with all paperwork provided by the treating physician(s). This paperwork must be faxed immediately to the claims center.  The injured employee must <b>keep to all appointments</b> even if they are feeling better.
Video Surveillance and Photos	Please forward any video surveillance of the incident to <a href="wcclaim@hrdelivered.com">wcclaim@hrdelivered.com</a> . If possible, please also photograph the environment where the incident occurred as well as any materials the employee was using at the time and forward that as well.

#### **Workers Compensation FAQ**

<u>Should I send my injured employee to the Emergency Room?</u> Only use ER's for severe/traumatic injury cases, if it is after normal business hours and clinics are closed, OR, if a walk in clinic is not located within a reasonable distance of the employee. Treatment is typically slower in an ER and can <u>cost as much as 5 times more</u> than a clinic for most common workplace injuries.

Should someone go to the clinic with my injured employee the first time? If at all possible you should send a company representative to the clinic with the employee. This shows the employee that you care and ensures that you are aware of any developments or complications with the treatment.

When an employee is injured, should I call the clinic? YES! Contact the nearest clinic and let them know you have an employee on the way, the nature of the injury, and that it is a work comp claim. This is a requirement in some states and is always a good practice. Ensure that the clinic has the "Medical Authorization For Initial Treatment" (AR-5) form.

Why do I have to forward the medical paperwork? Doesn't it come to you and the carrier anyway? Eventually the paperwork may find its way to us and the carrier, however, it may be days or weeks after the treatment. By not forwarding your copies of the paperwork, you could possibly delay necessary treatments, specialist referrals, diagnostics, and increase the overall cost of the claim.

<u>What is "Light Duty"?</u> Light duty refers to tasks the employee has been medically approved to perform while they heal from their injury. Often times the treating physician does not allow the injured employee to perform his/her regular duties based on the physical demands of their original position. The doctor then states on a form what physical activities are allowed during the employees' recovery. The restriction may change after additional medical treatments so always refer to the most recent medical paperwork returned with the employee.

If I have an employee that is taken out of work by the treating doctor, what should I do. Notify us immediately and forward all medical paperwork. Sometimes doctors will make a determination without all the facts about the employees' work responsibilities. We will work with you, the carrier, and the medical provider to ensure that the employee returns to work as quickly as possible.

The employee went to the doctor. They claim to be fine but didn't bring back any paperwork. What should I do? If the employee receives treatment from a medical facility and he/she returns to work "full duty" with no restrictions, a release from the treating physician must be obtained before the employee may begin work. Call the clinic and have them email/fax the paperwork or send the employee back to obtain the release. You cannot allow them to work without a written release from the treating facility.

<u>Can the employee go anywhere they want for treatment, like to their personal doctor?</u> Absolutely NOT. The employee must go to an approved facility and all visits after the initial care MUST be authorized by the carrier.

How many witnesses need to fill out the Witness Statement Form? If possible, have ALL of the witnesses fill out the form. Often times you will get different accounts that can help in the investigation. Also, should the employee get a lawyer, witness statements help in the defense of the lawsuit.

<u>How do I report a claim that happens after normal business hours?</u> You can call the corporate headquarters like you would call during regular business hours and leave a message, or you can email: <u>wcclaim@hrdelivered.com</u>. The Claims Center phone number is (239) 703-8470.

If an employee is involved in auto accident while working, do I need to report it to workers' compensation? If so why? If an employee is injured while performing a job function for the company (even if that function involves driving or riding in a vehicle), it is a workers' compensation claim. The work comp carrier can then try to recoup some of the costs of the claim from the responsible parties auto carrier.

What information is helpful during an investigation of an injury? Pictures, documentation, and witness statements. Take pictures of the equipment and area the employee was working in when the injury happened? Use an item to show scale if possible. Have a

person stand in the picture to point out the specific area, part, or location where or how the injury occurred. Document everything; claims forms, name and type of equipment involved (model and SN if applicable), and witness statements.

When an employee has filed a claim and has returned to work on light duty, can they come and go as they please? No. The light duty restrictions will detail if a reduction of hours is necessary for the proper healing of the injury. Other than for medical treatments and/or evaluations, the employee should be expected to maintain a normal work schedule.

<u>Can I fire an employee that has filed a claim?</u> NO! There are very few circumstances that allow for terminating an injured employee without severe penalties to you and your business. In addition, you/we lose complete control of making sure the injured employee follows the medical orders, goes to appointments and treatments, and inevitably the cost of the claim soars. <u>CALL US</u> and we will discuss the situation and assist you with getting the immediate problem corrected.

<u>Can I fire an employee after their claim has been closed?</u> It is against the law to terminate an employee for being injured at work whether the claim is open or closed. However, you can terminate the employee for cause for misconduct or performance reasons with proper written documentation showing a disciplinary process has been followed. <u>CALL US FIRST to review the circumstances and to receive guidance.</u>

If an employee tells me they had an accident on the job, but they don't want to go to the doctor, do we report this? YES! The employee must fill out the refusal form (AR-6) and it must be sent to us immediately. There are many times where an employee initially refuses treatment and then later decides to go. Late reporting causes a number of problems including having to remember forgotten details and possible fines from the state.

Why must the employee take a drug test immediately after being injured? The carrier requires that a drug test be performed. In addition, some states require the test to be performed within hours of the incident. To be accepted as part of the claims process, the test has to be timely in relation to the accident. Also, should an employee test positive for drugs or alcohol, by law the compensation benefits can be reduced or the claim can be denied outright. This has the potential of saving YOU money.

Can we reduce the wages of an injured employee working light duty work? The employee should be paid as close to their normal wages as possible based on the restrictions and work that is available. An employee returning to work but unable to perform their normal duties can be assigned other duties that meet the light duty restrictions. The employee only has to be paid what the interim job is worth, but it SHOULD be at least 80% of their current pay. If the employee meets the requirements, a percentage of the difference between the two wages will be made up by the workers' compensation carrier. If you choose to pay a lower than current wage, please call HRDelivered and let us know so that we file the correct paperwork to ensure that the employee is paid what they are owed.

<u>Must we work an injured employee their normal work hours/shift?</u> It is always better for the overall cost of the claim to have the employee work a normal schedule if the restrictions allow it. If you do not have enough light duty work to support a regular shift, you do not have to create work to keep the employee busy. If you are having difficulty providing hours to an injured employee, please contact HRDelivered and we discuss the situation with you.



In accordance with New Mexico law, Section 52-1-29, Section 52-3-19 and Section 52-1-49, NMSA 1978; NMAC 11.4.4.11 a la Ley de la Compensación de los Trabajadores, Sección 52-1-29, Sección 52-3-19 y Sección 52-1-49, NMSA 1978: NMAC 11 4 4 11

Comornie a la Ley de la Compensacion de los Trabajadores,	3eccion 32-1-29 , 3eccion 32-3-19 y 3eccion 32-1-43, Nivida 1970, Nivido 11.4.4.11			
I,, Yo, (name of employee/nombre del empleado)	was involved in an on-the-job accident or was disabled me lastimé en un accidente en el trabajo o fui incapacitado			
Yo, (name of employee/nombre del empleado)	me lastime en un accidente en el trabajo o lui incapacitado			
by an occupational disease at approximately, por enfermedad de oficio aproximadamente (time/a la(s) hora(s))	on, 20			
por enfermedad de oficio aproximadamente (time/a la(s) hora(s))	el (date/fecha) del 20			
Employee's social security number:	Where did the accident occur?			
Número de seguro social del empleado:	¿Dónde ocurrió el accidente?			
What happened?				
To be completed by Employer:  Completado por el empleador:	Worker will choose health care provider. Yes No Trabajador elegirá proveedor de atención médica.			
	ays. If No, Worker has the right to change health care provider after 60 days.			
En caso afirmativo, el empleador tiene derecho a cambiar de	En caso que no elige, el trabajador tiene derecho a cambiar de proveedor			
proveedor de atención médica después de 60 dias.	de atención médica después de 60 dias.			
WORKER'S INITIALS INIC	CIALES DEL TRABAJADOR			
Signed: S Firma: (employee/empleado) F Date/Fecha:	Signed/Notice Received:			
Firma: (employee/empleado) F	Firma/Notificación recibida: (employer or representative/empleador o representante)			
	Date/Fecha:			
INFORMATION IN AN APPLICATION FOR INSURANCE IS GUILTY OF A C	CLAIM FOR PAYMENT OF A LOSS OR BENEFIT OR KNOWINGLY PRESENTS FALSE RIME AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO CIVIL FINES AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES. DA FORMS ARE STILL VALID FOR USE			
Form NOA-1 Employer/employee: Each I Empleador/empleado: Rete	keep one copySEE BACK OF THIS FORM ener una copiaVER AL REVERSO DE ESTA FORMA			
Worker For emergency medical care, go to any emergency medical facility.				
Workers and Employers with questions about workers' compensation may contact an Ombudsman at any New Mexico Workers' Compensation Administration office for information and assistance. The offices are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except holidays.				
<b>Trabajador</b> Para emergencias médicas vaya a cualquier clinica / hospital.				

Trabajadores y empleadores con preguntas acerca de la compensación de los trabajadores pueden comunicarse con un asesor ("ombudsman") a cualquier oficina de la Administración de la Compensación de los Trabajadores para información y asistencia. Las oficinas están abiertas desde las ocho de la mañana hasta las cinco de la tarde de lunes a viernes, con la excepción de dias festivos.

Statewide Helpline -- Linea de Asistencia

#### 1-866-WORKOMP / 1-866-967-5667

toll free -- llamada sin costo de larga distancia New Mexico Workers' Compensation Administration PO Box 27198, Albuquerque, NM 87125

Albuquerque: (505) 841-6000 - 1 (800) 255-7965 Farmington: (505) 599-9746 - 1 (800) 568-7310 Hobbs: (575) 397-3425 - 1 (800) 934-2450

Las Cruces: (575) 524-6246 - 1 (800) 870-6826 Las Vegas: (505) 454-9251 - 1 (800) 281-7889 Roswell: (575) 623-3997 - 1(866) 311-8587

https://workerscomp.nm.gov

Santa Fe: (505) 476-7381

#### **EMPLOYEE'S REPORT OF INJURY AR - 1**

\*\*\* All injuries must be reported IMMEDIATELY to your supervisor even if treatment is not required \*\*\*

Employer:		Accident Location:	
Employee:		Social Security:	
Employee Address:		Phone:	
City, State:	Zip:	Job Title:	
Date of Injury:		Time of Injury	AM / PM
Body Part (s) Injured		Cause of injury	
Time Began Work:			
Describe What Happened in de	tail (be specific):		
The following people were pres	ent and might be a witness:		Ц Ц
<u> </u>	<u>-</u>		
I probably will need further med	ical treatment:	∏Yes	□ No
	If no, please refer to A	R-6 Refusal of Treatment Form.	
I, employee, the undersigned, certify that the above is a true and correct statement of fact and that I made such statements of my own free will. I understand that any payments to me or anyone else for expenses in connection with my accident and resulting injury is not an admission of liability on the part of <b>HRDelivered</b> . I authorize full access to copies of medical records, radiology reports, drug/alcohol screenings, and documents of any kind relating to my past or present injury/illness to <b>HRDelivered</b> . I hereby agree to release this information and hold all such medical providers harmless for the release of this information as set forth in this authorization.  "Any person who knowingly presents a false or fraudulent claim for the payment of a loss is guilty of a crime and may be subject to fines and confinement in state prison."			
be subject to fines and confin	lement in state prison."		
(Signature of Employee)	(Date)	(Printed Name of Supervisor)	(Date)
(Translator)			
Any person who knowingly and with statement or claim containing any fal		ve any employer or employee, insurance company, or suilty of a felony of the third degree.	elf-insured program, files a

DRUG TESTING. --An employer may test an employee or job applicant for any drug ("Drug" means alcohol, including a distilled spirit, wine, a malt beverage, or an intoxicating liquor; an amphetamine; a cannabinoid; cocaine; phencyclidine (PCP); a hallucinogen; methaqualone; an opiate; a barbiturate; a benzodiazepine; a synthetic narcotic; a designer drug; or a metabolite of any of the substances listed in this paragraph. An employer may

test an individual for any or all of such drugs and may deny medical and indemnity benefits for a refusal or positive test.

## SUPERVISOR'S ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT AR – 2

Employer:	Employee:		
Date of Injury:	Time of Accident:	AM/PM	
Chain of Custody Number/ Drug Test Form #:	Department:		
Date the employee reported the accident to you:			
Please Co	mplete All Questions		
Has the injured employee requested medical tree (If no, have employee complete refusal of treatment "Form AR-6")  Job being performed:  Incident Location (specific address)	Was this his/her regular job	?	
How many hours was the employee on the job before the		me·	
Last full day worked before injury:			
Describe the Accident:			
What did employee do or fail to do that contributed to the accident?			
What body part was injured?Any Witnesses:   Yes   No If yes, please collect witnesses:	ness statements on AR-3 form.		
Were you present at the accident location during the incident	ent?	☐Yes ☐ No	
Did you witness the incident?		☐Yes ☐ No	
Was a post-accident drug screen performed?		□Yes □ No	
Is light duty available for this injured employee?		☐Yes ☐ No	
Do you believe the employee will lose time from work beyon	ond medical treatments?	☐Yes ☐ No	
Was the employee cited for the accident?	☐Yes ☐ No		
Was employee paid for the entire day of injury?	☐Yes ☐ No		
Did the employee willfully refuse to use a safety appliance	or have prior knowledge and willfully	☐Yes ☐ No	
refused to observe a safety standard or rule?			
Is there video surveillance or photos available of the incide	ent?	☐Yes ☐ No	
Where did the employee go for treatment (Name of cli			
Clinic/ Hospital Address and phone #:			
How were they transported to treatment (car, ambulance)			
Supervisor Print Name	Signature of Supervisor	<del> </del>	

## WITNESS STATEMENT AR - 3

Employer:		Witness N	ame:	
Accident Location:		Home Pho	one:	
City, State:	Zip:	Job Title:		
		I		
Name of Injured Worker:		Are you re	elated to the injured worker?	?  Yes  No
Date of Injury:		Time of In	jury:	AM / PM
Body Part (s) Injured:		Cause of i	njury:	
Was the accident a result of:	☐ An Unsafe Act	or	☐ An Unsafe Cond	ition?
Was the injured employee wearin	 ng any safety equipment (i.e	e. goggles, glove:	s, back braces, hearing protec	ction)?
Describe What Happened, in deta				•
••	•			
List names of any other persons v	who may have information	regarding this inc	cident:	
l- 41	4l4 l 4l4		idirə - fəlir əvəlvət	: <b>f</b> #-:- ::440
Is there any other informatio	n that you know that	would assist ii	n providing a fair evaluat	ion of this incident?
				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

#### **Consent For Release Of Medical Information**

I hereby authorize representatives of HRDelivered and / or HRDelivereds' Workers' Compensation Carrier to be permitted to obtain and review copies of all medical records related to my workers' compensation injury. This pertinent information will be discussed with other professionals involved in my medical treatment and any institution that, through the "Workers' Compensation Program" or otherwise is paying all or part of the cost associated with my medical care.

Employee Name	Social Security Number
Injury Date	Telephone Number
Name of En	nployer
Signature of Employee	Date
Witness	Date

A PHOTOCOPY OR EMAIL COPY OF THIS AUTHORIZATION IS AS VALID AS THE ORIGINAL

#### MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION FOR INITIAL TREATMENT AR - 5

To: Medical Treatment Facility,

Please <u>verify</u> the active status of the injured employee being treated by calling us at (239) 703-8470. You are authorized to give a **ONE TIME INITIAL** treatment as necessary to our employee. <u>Please ensure all injured employees are drug tested</u> <u>or</u> told to go to the designated facility. \*

\*If drug test collection is not performed at this location, <u>please</u> advise the Employee to go to the drug test location listed on the chain of custody form.

Authorized by: HRDelivered 11691 Gateway Blvd Ste 104 Ft. Myers, FL 33913 (239) 703-8470	Send billings to: HRDelivered 11691 Gateway Blvd Ste 104 Ft. Myers, FL 33913 (239) 703-8470

Please email all treatment records including restrictions to HRDelivered following treatment.

We require all physicians who provide treatment for a reported work-related injury submit all relevant documents to the insurer and the employer immediately but no later than three (3) business days after the visit.

## <u>Please email all medical paperwork to wcclaim@hrdelivered.com, Attention</u> Claims Center.

If possible, inform the claims department of any follow-up treatment and also of any **missed** appointment by calling our offices at (239) 703-8470.

## Please Ensure All Injured Employees are Drug Tested within 4 hours and no later than 8 hours of the incident.

Note to **Client/ Employer**: Employee must carry a chain of custody form **AND** this authorization form to the assigned Medical Treatment Facility and/or pharmacy.

## REFUSAL OF TREATMENT FORM $\overline{AR-6}$

Employer:	Incident Date:
Employee:	Social Security:
Employee Phone:	Incident Location:
	ioned date. I sustained no injuries. I was offered treatment, because I sustained no injuries in the
	notify my supervisor immediately before seeking provided, and I will receive authorization so that I I have refused.
Please describe the incident in detail:	
Please list specific body parts affected (i.e. Right thumb, Upper back, Left a	nkle, etc.):
The following people may have been a witness to the incident:	
Signature	Date
Supervisor Signature	Date

#### **Employer Communications**

It is the employer's responsibility to maintain constant contact with any employee with an open worker's compensation claim. Specifically, employers should request medical documentation from employees after each follow up appointment and forward any documentation to <a href="mailto:wcclaim@hrdelivered.com">wcclaim@hrdelivered.com</a> immediately. Any changes in the employee's status or treatment plan should also be relayed to the claims team as soon as possible. Please relay these responsibilities to the injured employee's direct supervisors.

#### **Employee Communications**

It is the employee's responsibility to provide medical documentation to their employer following each medical appointment as well as to communicate times and dates of their follow-up appointments. It is also their responsibility to cooperate with their employer if they have been placed on restrictions and to return to work once they have been scheduled to return. Please relay these responsibilities to the employee once an incident has occurred.

#### **RETURN TO WORK**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of a Return To Work program is to enable the employee to work and be productive during the period of the employees' recovery from an injury. This not only allows you to retain experienced staff, but also reduces the cost of the claim and increases employee morale. Statistics show the longer an employee is out of work, the harder it is to get them to return to the workforce. It is also important to maintain constant contact with an employee who has an open worker's compensation claim so they feel they are still important to the team.

HRDelivered has established guidelines to return an injured employee to work following their injury <u>as set forth in our contract</u>. The employee will be placed on "light duty" (modified duty, transitional duty, limited service) as soon as he or she is able to do so prescribed by the treating medical provider. You are required to make light duty work available, if the restrictions are within reason, as soon as the employee is released to work by the treating physician. If you feel the restrictions are burdensome or if you have no work available, call us IMMEDIATELY and we will work with you, the doctor, the carrier, and the employee, so that <u>YOU</u> can keep your claims costs low and productivity high.

If you can accommodate an employee's restrictions, we will provide a Return-to-Work Job Offer letter for the employee to sign. You will also be responsible for maintaining light duty work logs to keep track of the work the employee does while on restrictions.

#### **Lost Time / Return To Work FAQ**

How often should I talk to an employee that has been placed out of work by the doctor? You should require the employee to call or visit your establishment a minimum of once per week. If the employee has been to the doctor, require the employee to drop off or send in any medical paperwork they have received immediately. Ask the employee how they are doing, when their next treatment is, and when they expect to return to work. Report any new information to HRDelivered.

What do I need to do when an employee returns to work after missing time from an injury? Verify that the employee has obtained a release from the doctor by either A) reviewing the medical release supplied by the employee from the doctor, or B) calling HRDelivered and having us verify the release. Sometimes an overeager employee will say they have been released and it is not true.

The employee has doctor restrictions and has returned to work. What do I need to do? Sometimes an employee may be released from the doctor to return to work with physical restrictions. The supervisor and the employee must review these restrictions carefully and discuss what work the employee can do within the limitations set by the medical provider. Do not allow the employee to work beyond those restrictions or it may impede the healing process or possibly make the injury worse.

What should I do if an employee has been released to work but doesn't show up for their shift? Try to contact the employee and ask why they are not present. Report the "No-Show" and any findings to HRDelivered. Even if you choose not to discipline the employee, document the absence and have the employee sign it upon their return. It is imperative that you notify and submit the documentation to HRDelivered so that we can properly manage the claim and keep the costs to a minimum.

<u>Will an employee be paid if they miss time due to an injury?</u> Possibly. The first seven (7) days of lost time work <u>is not payable</u> by the workers' compensation system. In addition, if the doctor does not place the employee "off work" and/or if the employee *CHOOSES* to stay home, they will not be compensated. If you wish to pay the employee (by using vacation time, etc.), contact the Claims center at (239) 703-8470 for a discussion of the proper method. **Do not just put them on the payroll.** If, however, the treating physician places the employee off work for more than 7 days, they will be paid a portion of their average wages.

<u>How are lost time wages calculated? – Depending on individual\_state statutes, loss wages are calculated based on average wages earned over a set period.</u> Usually, an injured employee will receive sixty-six and two thirds (66 and 2/3rds) of the calculated average wage.

Example: Florida uses the 13 weeks leading up to the injury date to calculate the average pay.

Example: Georgia uses the previous years' earnings to calculate the average pay.

If there is not enough historical data to support the primary method for calculation, a "similar" employee (in position, duties, and pay) is selected and their time and earnings are used to establish an average wage for the injured employee.

When can my employee expect to receive their benefit check(s) from the carrier? — After the injured employee is eligible to receive benefits, the carrier then begins to process the benefit payment. Payments will be sent directly to the employee on a bi-weekly cycle.

What if my company does not have light duty available? Only in extreme cases are there no possibilities for making light duty available. Call HRDelivered immediately and we will discuss with you the light duty restrictions and ways to get the employee back to work. Return To Work programs have been proven to reduce the costs of claims by 10% to 30%. We have access to several Return To Work options that you may not be aware of.

How do I let an employee know I have light duty available? What should I do to protect our company when we offer an injured employee light duty work? If the employee is present, sit down with them and the supervisor and discuss the light duty. Have the details put on paper and have the employee sign. Some states require that a formal light duty job offer be in writing and have a detailed job description that meets the restrictions. You must specify a date and time the employee is to report and exactly who the employee is to report to. The document must be sent to the employee certified mail, Fed Ex (signature required), or hand delivered to the employee with a receipt signature. The date the employee must report to work must allow for the time it takes to have the letter delivered (usually 5 days). The employee must be made to sign and date the document and return it for your files (copy to HRDelivered). Even if this is not required in your state, it remains an excellent way to protect your business. HRDelivered has developed a document for this purpose, and we will be happy to assist you on its completion.