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You may also request a copy of a brochure called “Getting Back to Work” (WKC-7762-P) from your employer or your employer’s insurance carrier or the Worker’s Compensation Division. This brochure will provide you with information on vocational rehabilitation.

If you do not have a job at the end of your healing period, you may apply online for unemployment benefits at unemployment.wisconsin.gov. For help using online services or if you are truly unable to go online call (414) 435-7069.

General questions about your claim should be addressed to your employer, its insurer, or the Worker’s Compensation Division. For further information, call the WC Division at (608) 266-1340.

When Is Increased or Decreased Compensation Paid?

If an employer has not followed a state or federal safety provision and an injury results, the employer must pay 15 percent increased compensation, up to a maximum of $15,000. This is in addition to any other compensation. Payment is due even if the employee’s carelessness caused the injury.

If you believe that you should be paid increased compensation because your employer did not observe a safety rule, you may apply for a hearing and must prove that your employer was at fault.

If a worker fails to follow their employer’s written and enforced safety rules, compensation may be decreased by 15 percent, but not by more than $15,000. If the injury was caused by the worker’s drug or alcohol use, the insurance carrier or self-insured employer may be liable for only medical expenses.

How Long Is My Claim Open?

You must report the injury to your employer within two years to qualify for worker’s compensation. If the injury is reported or a payment is made within two years, the claim is usually held open by law for 6 years from the date of the injury or the date of last payment to you, whichever is later. In the case of an occupational disease, such as an occupational hearing loss, carpal tunnel syndrome, etc., there is no time limit for filing a claim. For some serious traumatic injuries such as total loss of a hand, arm, vision loss, permanent brain injury, or partial or total hip or knee replacement there is no time limit for filing additional claims relating to your work injury. In all cases, it is important to save your records of the last payment.

Questions about Worker’s Compensation should be directed to:

What if I Get a Lawyer?

If you hire an attorney in a disputed case, your attorney may be paid up to 20 percent of the amount of compensation the attorney obtains for you. You will also have to pay for your attorney’s costs. The fees and costs will be deducted from your payments.

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What if I Can’t Return to My Job?

Some workers may not be able to return to the same type of work they did before injury or illness. Keep in touch with your employer and your practitioner to see if you can return to work early on a restricted basis, perhaps in a modified job if necessary. This could help ease you back into working again.

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Some workers may not be able to return to the same type of work they did before injury or illness. Keep in touch with your employer and your practitioner to see if you can return to work early on a restricted basis, perhaps in a modified job if necessary. This could help ease you back into working again.
The Division reviews benefit payments to make sure they are accurate. If you doubt that you are receiving the correct benefit amount, contact the Division.

What If I Am Receiving Social Security Disability Payments?
You are required by law to notify the insurance carrier or self-insured employer if you are receiving both worker’s compensation benefits and Social Security Disability payments.

When Will I Get My First Check?
In most cases, the first payment will be made by the insurance carrier within 14 days of your last day worked. If your payments later stop, or if you have any other problem, contact your employer or its insurer to find out the reason. If you need more help, contact the Division. You may cash compensation checks and sign receipts without any fear of waiving any of your legal rights.

What Compensation Is Paid for Permanent Disability?
For a permanent disability, you will receive additional compensation. Benefits are paid monthly, not in one lump sum.

Who Pays the Medical Bills?
The insurance carrier or self-insured employer is required to pay for your medical expenses and mileage. Send any bills you receive to your employer or its insurer. If you paid any of your medical expenses, send itemized receipts to your employer (if self-insured) or its insurer for reimbursement.

An insurer or self-insured employer may challenge a health care provider’s fee as unreasonable or treatment as unnecessary. An insurer or self-insured employer may refuse to pay the charges of a hospital if the insurer or self-insured employer has notified the hospital that it cannot be settled. You may make a request to the Division for a hearing if you believe that an insurer or self-insured employer is trying to avoid paying the costs for your reasonable and necessary medical treatment. The costs for your reasonable and necessary medical treatment will be paid. If you miss more than three days of work due to the injury, you will receive compensation for lost wages. Worker’s compensation also provides benefits to dependents of workers who die from work-related accidents.

If your injury or illness is payable under the law:

- You can appeal your case to an independent administrative judge.

- You can request that your worker’s compensation case be reviewed by an administrative law judge.

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Any additional compensation for a permanent disability, such as an amputated limb, will be determined by an administrative law judge. After you return to work or the healing period ends, the administrative law judge will review your case and determine the amount of compensation you are entitled to.

What Compensation Is Paid for Permanent Disability?
After you have healed as much as possible from your injury, your practitioner will determine if you have any permanent disability.

For a permanent disability, you will receive additional compensation. Benefits are paid monthly, not in one lump sum.

A specific number of weeks of compensation is paid for the loss of a finger, hand, leg, foot, eye, ear, etc. This compensation is paid in addition to the compensation paid during the healing period. Different amounts of compensation are due for the loss of different parts of the body.

If there is no amputation, but there is pain or loss of motion or strength in a larger area following weeks of compensation are paid. For example, 10 percent disability at the shoulder would equal 10 percent of 50 weeks compensation.

Some other kinds of permanent injuries are compensated in a different manner that involves a determination of future wage loss.

What If My Claim Is Disputed?
If there is a dispute between you and the employer or insurer that cannot be settled, you may make a request to the Division or to an administrative law judge for a hearing.

You may file an application for hearing if your employer or insurer does not report your injury to the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations, or if your employer or insurer does not compensate you for your injury. You must file an application for hearing with the Division or with an administrative law judge within 14 days after receiving notice that your employer or insurer does not report your injury to the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations. If your employer or insurer does not report your injury to the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations, or if your employer or insurer does not compensate you for your injury, you may file a complaint with the Division or with an administrative law judge within 14 days after receiving notice that your employer or insurer does not report your injury to the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations.