

BROADSPIRE'S LIFE CARE PLANNING AND MEDICAL COST PROJECTIONS HELP INJURED EMPLOYEES MAINTAIN INDEPENDENT LIVES, SAVE THEIR COMPANIES \$1 MILLION

Case study #1

A man working as a heavy machine operator was involved in a motor vehicle accident on the way to work in May 1977. The man, whose vehicle was struck by another, incurred a spinal cord injury and a ruptured aorta. He was disabled by the accident, but remained independent with the help of a manual wheelchair and a pickup truck. His employer asked Broadspire to develop a life care plan for the worker, who lived in a rural community in New Mexico, when he was 66 years old and a widower.

Life care intervention

Broadspire's life care planner reviewed the disabled worker's medical status, mobility, safety, transportation and all other aspects of his daily life. The planner provided recommendations to enhance the worker's care and reduce the risk of complications brought on by aging. Recommendations included continued evaluations every other year at a nationally recognized spinal cord injury center; assistance with alternative transportation so he can make those visits safely; assistance and education from case management services to allow him to live independently; and anticipated costs and prevention options for an individual aging with a spinal cord injury.

Outcome

The injured worker remains medically stable and has maintained his independence. He receives regular evaluations by the spinal cord injury center and has an appropriate care plan, implemented by a field care manager, to help mitigate the impact of aging.

Case study #2

While working as a route salesman, a worker pulled down an overhead door on a truck and hit his head on a bolt. He experienced cervical and lumbar strain and post-traumatic concussion syndrome, and complained of headaches and forgetfulness. Pain management and formal physical therapy for a prolonged period, supported by a court order, were provided to the injured employee.

Life care intervention

Broadspire's life care planner contacted the physical therapy center the injured worker was using and obtained information on an alternative supervised exercise program. The new program eliminated pre-scheduled appointments and provided the employee the option of attending therapy daily without an appointment. A physical therapist agreed that the plan was appropriate and recommended the change in program to the treating physician. Follow-up between the life care planner and the claim representative resulted in discontinuation of formal physical therapy and initiation of the independent supervised program.

Outcome

The injured worker continued therapy successfully under the new program, saving the company \$300,000 over the expected life of the claim.

Case study #3

An employee fell from a stepladder, resulting in a lower back injury. After a conservative treatment plan failed, doctors performed lumbar surgery, and the injured worker was referred to a pain management specialist for severe, intractable low back and bilateral leg pain. Doctors placed a pump in the spinal canal to dispense pain medication. The patient received adequate pain relief with the pump and visited physicians every two months for refill and reprogramming of the pump. The employee was 47 at the time of the injury and at the time of referral to Broadspire was 56.

Life care intervention

Broadspire's life care planner reviewed all payments for the patient's care and determined that his employer was being charged twice for each refill of medication by different providers using different billing codes. The planner also noted surgical suite charges associated with pump refills, when standards show that such pumps can be safely refilled in a physician's office or by a trained home health nurse.

Outcome

The injured worker's claim representative determined that the surgical suite charges were not reasonable and necessary and that the medication had been billed twice in error. This resulted in an annual savings of \$22,800. With the use of the pump to continue for the lifetime of the injured worker, his employer can expect savings of more than \$680,000 over the life of the claim.