



# Medical Society of the County of Erie

*Better Health Through Advocacy*

## Patient Guidelines for Workers' Compensation Cases

1. It is the patient's responsibility to provide the physician at the initial visit with his employer's name and address, workers' compensation insurance carrier name and address, carrier case number and carrier claim number. **IT IS NOT THE PHYSICIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY, NOT THE PHYSICIAN'S SECRETARY'S RESPONSIBILITY. *IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.*** Please bring information with you at the time of your initial evaluation by the physician.
2. If this is an old case which you are attempting to re-open, or if you are seeking a second opinion, it is your responsibility to bring old records. Do not expect your originally treating physician to mail the records in a timely fashion. Go to the physician's office, obtain the records and bring them to your appointment.
3. Please do not expect the hospital or free-standing x-ray facility or another physician's office to mail the x-rays and reports. The physician who is going to be evaluation you will expect you to bring your x-rays and reports with you. He will not "call the physician's office and "talk to the physician about your case." Without the x-rays, other imaging studies and reports, it is very difficult for your physician to provide a proper evaluation.
4. If you have an attorney, it is your attorney's responsibility to send the physician a letter requesting a copy of this report. Unless he receives that letter along with your consent, your physician will not send a report to your attorney.
5. A physician providing the second opinion is not obligated to assume your care. It is his prerogative whether or not he will assume your care or whether he is simply providing a second opinion.
6. Adherence to these guidelines will help your physician in evaluation and treating your injury. Your physician's goal is to help you recover from your injury and return to work in a timely fashion. Furthermore, complying with these guidelines will help you to receive the benefits provided by your employer and the insurance carrier.