



Hospital Worker's Compensation Insurance Trust

Allow More Health Care Facilities to Participate in the Worker's Compensation Trust Program

For more than 30 years, hospitals in Washington State have managed their worker's compensation claims through the Hospital Worker's Compensation Insurance Trust. Through the Trust, hospitals have implemented risk and claims management strategies leading to safer work places, fewer claims and lower claims cost.

WSHA supports legislation to expand the opportunity to participate in the Hospital Worker's Compensation Insurance Trust to other health care facilities with similar worker's compensation risks.

Increasing efficiency and managing risk

Over the last few years, WSHA has been approached by non-hospital members who are interested in joining the Washington Hospital Worker's Compensation Insurance Trust. These health care facilities, particularly kidney centers and large clinics, share similar worker's compensation risks as hospitals, but are too small to take advantage of self-insurance.

Under current law, they are not able to participate in the Hospital Worker's Compensation Insurance Trust programs because membership is restricted to hospitals as defined in RCW 70.41.020. By changing who is eligible to participate in the Trust to include "health care facilities" as defined in RCW 70.38.025 (6), more WSHA members and other health care facilities can take advantage of the benefits of Trust membership. Another added benefit for current Trust participants is the increased efficiency of shared administrative costs.



Health care facilities are committed to keeping their employees safe on the job. Being able to participate in self-insured worker's compensation trusts allows health care facilities to better manage risk and claims costs.

Preventing injuries and getting people back to work

The hospital trust program partners with the hospital association to provide access to best practices in work place safety to prevent the types of injuries that occur most frequently in the health care setting. The longer an injured worker stays off the job, the more likely they are to never return to work. The trust is committed to getting injured workers the care they need and then getting them back to work. The trust actively manages claims and works to get them closed appropriately. Trust members also benefit from shared best practices in return to work programs for our members. This reduces costs and gives people better long-term outcomes.

WSHA position

Washington's hospitals have benefitted from the Washington Hospital Worker's Compensation Insurance Trust program for more than 30 years. The association supports expanding access to the Trusts to other health care facilities that share similar risk that are also members of the Washington State Hospital Association, especially kidney centers and large clinics.