



VACORP

Understanding the Virginia Workers' Compensation Claims Process:

Information an Injured Worker Needs to Know

What is "Workers' Compensation"?

The Virginia Workers' Compensation Act provides wage replacement and medical benefits for injuries that arise out of and in the course and scope of an employee's job as defined under Virginia Code Title Section §65.2.

Whom do I contact for information about my claim?

Your workers' compensation claim will be handled by the Virginia Association of Counties Group Self-Insurance Risk Pool, Inc. (VACORP) under your employer's workers' compensation plan. If you have any questions regarding your claim you should contact VACORP directly at the following:

VACORP
1819 Electric Rd., Suite C
Roanoke, VA 24018
1-888-822-6772

How does the claims process work?

When VACORP receives your claim, a claim number will be assigned and your employer will be given the name of a Claims Specialist. The claim number will identify your claim, and your claim specialist will work with you to ensure that you receive the proper medical care and benefits, and assist you with an appropriate return-to-work plan.

Once VACORP has received and reviewed your completed claim, a decision will be made as to whether your claim meets the criteria under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act (Section §65.2) for benefits.

If you disagree with the decision, you have a right to appeal the denial by contacting the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission at:

Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission
1000 DMV Drive
Richmond, VA 23220
1-877-664-2566

Under Virginia law, by filing a workers' compensation claim, you irrevocably agree that any physician may discuss, orally or in writing, your medical history and course of treatment with your employer and with VACORP. This communication can include information regarding your injury or disease, as well as information regarding any prior injury or disease of the body part which is the subject of your workers' compensation claim.

You may also be referred to a case management professional, who will assist you with your efforts to return to work.

What if I miss work because of my injury?

If you are out of work for more than 7 days, you may be eligible for lost wage benefits. In order to receive this benefit, your treating physician must certify in writing that you are unable to return to work.

Your Claims Specialist may consult with your physician and your employer to determine whether your job duties can be modified to accommodate your injury during your recovery period.

What information do I need to provide to my Employer?

You are required to provide any paperwork you receive from the doctor or hospital to your supervisor. Make copies if you would like them for your records. It is important to provide these documents and keep your employer informed of your work status so your claim can be handled properly and promptly.

How do I choose a Physician?

For all non-emergency care, you will need to select a doctor from the panel of physicians given to you by Company Nurse or your supervisor at the time you report your injury. If your employer does not have a panel of physicians, contact VACORP and a Claims Specialist will assist you in finding medical care in your area.

If your illness or injury is an emergency, you should seek medical treatment at the nearest medical facility that can treat your illness or injury. After emergency treatment has been sought you will need to select a doctor from your employer's panel of physicians.

How do I get Medications?

To obtain medications relating to your workers' compensation claim, please contact your employer to obtain an Express Scripts First-Fill Form. This form provides information to the participating pharmacies to process your prescription.

Prior authorization is not required for most medications if they are prescribed within the first two weeks after the date in which you were injured. Certain narcotic medications require prior authorization by VACORP.

If you have any questions regarding medications, you should contact VACORP at 1-888-822-6772.



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Disclaimer

This information is not a substitute for the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act as found in title 65.2, in the code of Virginia. It is also not a substitute for competent legal advice on matters relating to workers' compensation and employment law in Virginia. While every effort has been made to present the contents of the Act as accurately as possible, it should be noted that this document includes information, which may be subject to change as a result of future legislative action by the Virginia General Assembly. For a more complete resource on workers' compensation law, the reader is referred to the full text of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act.