

# Who's Minding Your Workers' Compensation Program?

**D**o you treat your workers compensation (w.c.) insurance similar to your other business insurance — pay the premium and not worry about it?

If so, you should think again and get involved! With the 2016-17 New York loss costs increasing an average of 9.3% now is a good time to act. There are several things you can do:

**1. Review your insurance not just for price but for services offered. Not all carriers have the same rates and services.** While they all have the same starting point, the rates they charge can differ. In addition, some carriers provide services to help control your claims costs and/or assist with your safety program.

**2. Be proactive and start getting safety conscious.** Instill this philosophy on your employees. The best way to control your w.c. costs is by not having claims.

**3. Pay for first aid claims.** NYS w.c. law

allows for employers to pay for claims that are defined as first aid.

**4. When an accident does have happen get involved.** Don't just report it and let the insurance company deal with it. There are things you can do as the employer.

**5. Monitor your claims and reserves.** These are taken into consideration when calculating your experience modifier. Frequency and severity can negatively impact your experience mod.

**6. Periodically review your operations and assigned class codes.** If your operations have changed so may have your class codes. Also, make sure that employees are assigned the correct class code for the work they perform.

**7. Work with a knowledgeable agent with expertise in workers' compensation to assist in controlling costs associated with your w.c. program.** An independent agent has access to many markets and resources and tailor a plan for your operations.

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