Spine Center Policy
Workers’ Compensation Patients

A nurse case manager or claims adjuster may directly refer a workers’ compensation patient to the Spine Physician of his or her choice at the OrthoCarolina Spine Center.

All new, unassigned workers’ compensation patients will be scheduled with a Spine Center Physician Assistant. The Physician Assistants are personally recruited and receive extensive spine education and training by the OrthoCarolina Spine Physicians. The patient’s care will be managed by the Physician Assistant if/until the Physician Assistant determines it necessary to refer the workers’ compensation patient to their supervising Spine Physician.

If the Physician Assistant determines the patient needs to be seen by a Physician other than their supervising Spine Physician then he/she will indicate this on the patient’s office encounter form. They will also dictate the name of the specific Physician they are referring the workers’ compensation patient to w/in the note.

The Workers’ Compensation Department will be responsible for appointing all new workers’ compensation Spine Center Patients. Cashiers and appointment schedulers can appoint established patients.

Because of the Spine Specialists’ high standards of quality and consistency, they will also require all MRI, Physical Therapy, DME, EMG, injections and surgical procedures to be provided within OrthoCarolina.

Kelly Winfield, at 704.323.2216, will continue to be your contact for IMEs, CSOs and CSOs with Transfer of Care. The fee for our Special Exam Program is $1500 for all Spine Center Surgeons and Physiatrists.

By working together, OrthoCarolina will continue to offer the access and the expertise of all of our Spine Specialists to our valued patients. Please call Nancy Caudle at 704.323.2471 if you have any questions.