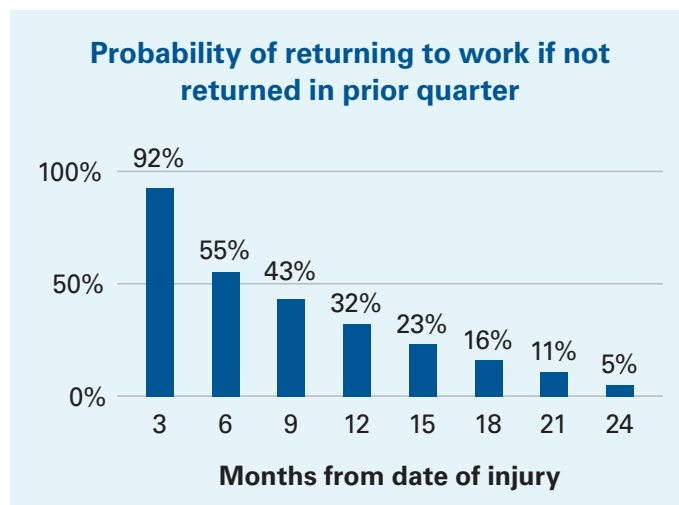


Importance of Vocational Recovery



Vocational recovery is as important as physical recovery for your patient and their families.



Workers have a much higher probability of returning to work within the first three months following an injury. After three months, the probability of ever returning to work drops swiftly — without a vocational recovery intervention.

What is vocational recovery?

- Vocational recovery is a work disability prevention model that is evidence-informed and worker-centric. It focuses on helping workers return to work.
- It requires a multidisciplinary approach by L&I, medical providers, employers, vocational providers and the workers themselves.

- Data shows that early engagement with a trained vocational provider leads to earlier vocational recovery.

What can medical providers do to encourage vocational recovery?

- Set expectations with your patient that they will return to work.
- Reach out to your patient's claim manager and ask for consideration of a vocational recovery referral if a vocational provider is not already assigned to the case.
- Work with your patient and their vocational provider to integrate medical and vocational recovery needs and plans.
- Address correspondence from vocational providers as soon as possible. Needless delays and duration compound the work disability condition — which is harmful to workers.

What's different for medical providers?

- Vocational providers may ask to conference with you much sooner, and more frequently, than in the past. Bill the appropriate team conference CPT® code.
- Reviewing job descriptions and job analyses are reimbursable activities. Bill using local codes 1038M for the first job description and 1028M for each additional review.

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