

For Immediate Release

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Achieving Better Outcomes and Reducing Costs Through Disability Management: IFDM 2010: *Collaborating for Success*

(April 8, 2010 – Madison, WI, USA) The economic climate around the world has caused almost every business to evaluate its practices with an eye to cutting costs and improving efficiencies. In workers' compensation, return to work and disability management programs are regarded as being successful in improving outcomes for workers and reducing costs for employers.

Appropriate and timely return to work significantly increases the likelihood of sustained employment. At the same time, employers reap both direct and indirect savings. A report on estimated savings indicates that employers who implement a return-to-work program save an average of 54% of their workers' compensation costs.¹ Policy and political barriers can present significant challenges to effective return to work and disability management programs.

The International Forum on Disability Management 2010: *Collaborating for Success*, to be held on September 20-22, 2010, in Los Angeles, California, will provide a unique opportunity for the health, safety, workers' compensation, and disability management communities to share experiences on how to create, implement, and evaluate comprehensive disability management initiatives. Individuals with years of experience developing and promoting progressive disability management programs, including Dame Carol Black, Dr. Jan White, Susan Daniels and Wolfgang Zimmerman, will share their insight on a variety of challenging issues.

With the theme *Collaborating for Success*, IFDM 2010 will explore the multi-disciplinary nature of disability management with representation from disability managers, employers, labor members, medical providers, insurers, and policymakers. The program will feature presentations on key issues including rehabilitation and job modification, as well as more the role of incentives and changing societal attitudes about disability. IFDM 2010 will place special emphasis on addressing practical techniques for return to work and evaluation tools for disability management practitioners.

Christine Baker, Executive Officer of the California Commission on Health, Safety, and Workers' Compensation and Chair of the IFDM 2010 Advisory Committee, is a recognized advocate for return to work. Baker comments that, "In California, we are striving to establish a new paradigm by focusing on educating employers and workers and guiding them through the barriers to early and sustained return to work. IFDM 2010 provides an ideal forum to learn and share best practices and successful outcomes to return to work and disability management with the global community."

About IFDM

Held every two years since 2002, the International Forum on Disability Management is the only global conference dedicated to in-depth discussion of problems, trends, and best practices in disability management.

¹ Patricia F. Helve, *Evaluating the Practicality of Return to Work Programs* (Crawford & Company, Atlanta, GA, 1993) 1-10.

IFDM 2010 is hosted by the California Department of Industrial Relations and the California Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation in association with the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions.

IFDM 2010 will bring together attendees from across the world who represent the health, safety, medical, and workers' compensation communities. The diverse audience will include employers, workers, disability management practitioners, risk managers, unions, jurisdictional and local government agencies, the insurance industry, policymakers and the public to participate in presentations, discussions, and workshops.

We are grateful to the California Consortium on Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work, Reed Group, and the Work Loss Data Institute for providing support for IFDM 2010. Additional support for IFDM 2010 is provided by the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada, California Workers' Compensation Institute, Disability Management Employer Coalition, GLADNET, Institute for Work & Health, International Disability Management Standards Council, International Rehabilitation Counselors Association, International Social Security Association, German Federation of Insurers for Work Accidents and Occupational Diseases, National Institute of Disability Management and Research, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Office of Disability Employment Policy, United States Department of Labor.

Visit www.ifdm2010.com to view the IFDM 2010 program and register to attend.

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