



ODG-Aligned Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)

Supporting Injured Workers with Substance Use & Behavioral Health Needs

■ Why Behavioral Health Matters in Workers' Compensation

According to the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), psychosocial factors such as substance use, depression, anxiety, and opioid dependence are major predictors of delayed recovery and extended claim duration.

Injured workers who develop opioid misuse or have behavioral health barriers are at higher risk for:

- Longer time off work
- Higher medical and indemnity costs
- Poor adherence to treatment plans

■ ODG Guidance on Behavioral Health & Substance Use

ODG specifically recommends referral to structured behavioral health programs when:

- Opioid use or substance misuse is impacting recovery
- Depression, anxiety, or fear-avoidance behaviors are delaying return-to-work
- Outpatient counseling alone is insufficient to address needs

The goal: functional restoration, opioid risk reduction, and earlier return-to-work.

■ Pathway Healthcare's ODG-Aligned IOP Solution

Our Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) is designed to meet ODG standards:

- ODG compliant treatment plans tied to delayed recovery and opioid risk criteria
- Same week admissions available in person or through telehealth
- Evidence based therapies including CBT, relapse prevention, and medication management when appropriate
- Progress reports aligned with NCM and adjuster requirements
- Return to Work focus that improves function, reduces opioid reliance, and shortens claim duration

■ Referral & Reporting Process

- Referral Accepted from Nurse Case Manager, Adjuster, or UR/Medical Director
- Preauthorization Support with ODG-referenced clinical justification
- Weekly Updates: attendance, progress, and functional status
- Discharge Summary within 48 hours of completion

■ Benefits for Carriers & TPAs

- Reduced claim duration & costs
- Earlier return-to-work outcomes
- Compliance with ODG treatment standards
- Improved functional recovery & patient adherence

■ Contact Us

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