

Prevention (CDC, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, March 27, 1992, Volume 41, Number RR-3, pages 5-11) may be obtained by calling (404) 488-4334.

Potential applicants may obtain a copy of Healthy People 2000 (Full Report, Stock No. 017-001-00474-0) or Healthy People 2000 (Summary Report, Stock No. 017-001-00473-1) referenced in the Introduction through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325, telephone (202) 512-1800.

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[Announcement 575]

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Medical Management and Rehabilitation Programs for Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders

Introduction

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 1995 funds for cooperative agreements to provide assistance for the development, implementation, and evaluation of demonstration projects that will determine the overall effectiveness of medical management and rehabilitation programs for individuals with work-related musculoskeletal disorders.

The Public Health Service (PHS) is committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives of Healthy People 2000, a PHS-led national activity to reduce morbidity and mortality and improve the quality of life. This announcement is related to the priority area of Occupational Safety and Health. (For ordering a copy of Healthy People 2000, see the Section Where to Obtain Additional Information.)

Authority

The legislative authority for this program is authorized under Sections 20(a) and 22(e)(7) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 669(a) and 671(e)(7)) and Section 501(a) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act (30 U.S.C. 951).

Smoke-Free Workplace

The PHS strongly encourages all grant recipients to provide a smoke-free

workplace and promote the nonuse of all tobacco products, and Public Law 103-227, the Pro-Children Act of 1994, prohibits smoking in certain facilities that receive Federal funds in which education, library, day care, health care, and early childhood development services are provided to children.

Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by public and private, non-profit and for-profit organizations. Thus, universities, colleges, research institutions, hospitals, and other public and private organizations, State and local governments or their bona fide agents, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, Indian tribes or Indian tribal organizations, and small, minority- and/or women-owned businesses are eligible to apply.

Availability of Funds

Approximately \$225,000 is available in FY 1995 to fund approximately 1 to 2 awards. It is expected the award(s) will begin on or about September 30, 1995, and will be made for a 12-month budget period within a project period of 3 to 5 years. Funding estimates may vary and are subject to change.

Continuation awards within the project period will be made on the basis of satisfactory progress and the availability of funds.

Purpose

The purpose of the demonstration projects is to assess the effectiveness of medical management programs regarding rehabilitation and return-to-work of employees with work-related musculoskeletal disorders. Through the development and application of objective evaluation criteria, the project will provide a basis with which to compare the success rate of various medical management, rehabilitation and return-to-work programs. In addition, the demonstrations will provide additional data on the types of programs available; components of the programs; elements necessary for successful programs; the success rates of programs for returning populations to work and possible explanations; the influence programs have in convincing employers to change activities in jobs where the injury was noted; and the direct and indirect costs of successful medical management, rehabilitation, and return-to-work programs.

This program may build on an existing program or provide assistance in initiating a new program. Personnel for the demonstration projects will include researchers from many disciplines such as ergonomics,

epidemiology, occupational medicine, physical and occupational therapy and physical and rehabilitation medicine, nursing, health education, and economics. Additionally, this program will report and disseminate findings, relevant health and safety education and training information to State health officials, health-care providers, workers, management, unions, and employers. It is envisioned that new research methods and techniques will be developed that improve the success of rehabilitation and return-to-work programs for work-related musculoskeletal disorders.

Program Requirements

In conducting activities to achieve the purpose of this program, the recipient will be responsible for the activities under A. (Recipient Activities), and CDC/NIOSH will be responsible for the activities listed under B. (CDC/NIOSH Activities).

A. Recipient Activities

1. Develop and conduct a demonstration project for the evaluation of medical management, rehabilitation and return-to-work programs targeted at work-related musculoskeletal disorders.

2. Develop objective criteria for determination of "successful" medical management, rehabilitative, and return-to-work programs for work-related musculoskeletal disorders. (Issues to consider include assessment of the level of exposure prior to the injury and the type of job to which the individual returns, and how the job where the injury was noted was changed to reduce the risk of injury to workers.)

3. Identify existing medical management, rehabilitative and return-to-work programs to validate criteria and facilitate implementation of the demonstration project.

4. Develop a protocol that reviews the pertinent literature on program evaluation, describes the project methodology, the data to be collected and the proposed analysis of the data. Present the protocol to a panel of peer reviewers and revise the protocol as required for final approval.

5. Conduct data collection, management and analysis.

6. Prepare a final report summarizing the study methodology, results obtained, and conclusions reached, including recommendations regarding critical elements of effective medical management, rehabilitation and return-to-work programs for work-related musculoskeletal disorders.

7. Report research results to the scientific community via presentations at professional conferences and articles