

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CuraLinc's DisabilityLinc Program Impacts Short-Term Disability Durations and Psychosocial Conditions of Members on Long-Term Disability

March 3, 2009. Chicago, IL. DisabilityLinc, CuraLinc Healthcare's Disability Management program, provides client organizations with a clinically-based service for members who file a short- or long-term disability claim. By addressing the behavioral issues that are common with members on disability leave, DisabilityLinc will have a direct impact on: the claim's duration; the incidence of "repeat" claims; the frequency of short-term claims becoming long-term claims; and the psychosocial condition of the member. The program also coaches managers and supervisors of employees who return from disability leave, in an effort to make the transition back to the workplace as seamless as possible.

"When an employee goes on disability leave, there is often a mental or behavioral health component that gets ignored. An Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can make a difference in the length of time that the employee stays out of work by intervening as soon as the claim is filed and inviting them into the program", says John Kamilis, MA, LCPC, Director of Clinical Services at CuraLinc Healthcare. "By addressing the employee's mental or behavioral health issues through our DisabilityLinc program, we can reduce the amount of time the employee is out on disability, help to improve the employee's quality of life, and reduce the likelihood of them returning on disability leave."

According to The Hartford ('Healthier, More Productive Employees', 2008), workers who accessed their EAP while on short-term disability leave returned to work twice as often at the conclusion of an STD claim than employees who did not have an EAP available to them. The same study also found that STD claim duration was 24% lower, after EAP interventions, for members with cancer, musculoskeletal, and psychiatric STD claims.

CuraLinc will work in tandem with a client's Human Resources or Benefits team to identify employees who file a disability claim. If an employee accepts the invitation into the DisabilityLinc program, he or she will participate in an initial clinical evaluation with one of CuraLinc's licensed clinicians. This evaluation will allow the clinician to obtain a psychosocial history and complete a needs assessment to determine what, if any, additional resources may be required.

If the employee is in need of counseling, the clinician (or case manager) will determine whether it will take place within the framework of the EAP. If a higher level of care or additional treatment recommendation is needed, the case manager will assist the employee in locating those referrals and will monitor the employee's progress to ensure compliance to the course of action outlined during the initial assessment. The CuraLinc case manager will determine whether the employee has access to resources that might be needed for any medical disability.

In addition to supporting the employee, CuraLinc will also maintain contact with the employer-designated representative during the time the employee is on disability, and after they return, to help facilitate a smoother transition back to work.

DisabilityLinc is a product offered by CuraLinc Healthcare in conjunction with the SupportLinc Employee Assistance Program. For more information, please visit www.curalinc.com, email info@curalinc.com or call 800.490.1585.