1. What is Occupational Medicine?

Occupational Medicine is the subspecialty of Preventive Medicine concerned with the health, safety, and performance of workers. In addition to providing medical care to workers with work–related injuries and illnesses, Occupational Medicine specialists work with businesses, employees, regulators, insurers, public health, and other occupational safety and health professionals to create safer workplaces.

2. What is the difference between Occupational Medicine and Workers’ Compensation?

Occupational Medicine focuses on preventing work related illnesses and/or injuries by maintaining healthy, fit employees and a safe working environment. Occupational Medicine services are usually paid by the employer and fall under Option’s “Employer Paid Services” (EPS).

However, Workers’ Compensation claims arise after a work related illness or injury occurs, and all Workers’ Compensation claims are filed with the employer’s Workers’ Compensation Insurance if provided. For more information about Workers’ Compensation Claims, including procedures, forms, visit our Workers’ Compensation web page at: Urgent Care ⇒ Services ⇒ Workers’ Compensation.

3. Why is an Occupational Health program important to an employer’s bottom line?

Healthy workers are more productive, and work–related injuries are very expensive. The direct costs of injuries that are easy to measure, like the cost of medical care and insurance costs, are small when compared to indirect costs associated with workplace disruption, retraining, lost productivity, etc. When injuries do occur, they need to be managed well to return the injured worker to a state of health and productivity as soon as possible. A skilled Occupational Medicine clinical practice will work with the worker, employer, workers compensation insurer, and the medical system to help the injured worker regain his or her functional abilities and return to work.

4. What are your hours of operation?

Our clinic is open Monday–Friday, 9:30 am to 6:00 pm and Saturdays and Sundays from 10:30 to 4:00 pm.

5. What if my employee needs services after-hours?

Urgent Care services are available at Options Urgent Care 7 days a week, during posted operating hours. The nearest facility providing 24–hour services are available at Brazosport Regional Health Systems Emergency Department. However, in the event an employee requires emergent care after hours, we always suggest utilizing the nearest emergency department.
6. Can you help us assess the physical ability and/or medical qualifications of our applicants to perform a job?
Our clinics perform post–offer/pre–employment to determine if prospective employees meet the physical and medical requirements to perform the essential functions of a job. These evaluations can include physical ability tests that mimic particular functions of a job.

7. Why is pre-employment fit-for-duty testing a good idea?
Pre–employment fit–for–duty testing is used to determine an applicant’s physical suitability for the job at hand, helping to minimize work–related illnesses and/or injuries. Comprehensive tests are custom–designed for the specific job function and are typically used to identify pre–existing injuries and/or health condition. Employers must furnish a detailed job description, including physical demands of the job.

8. What Occupational Medicine Services do you provide?
We offer a variety of different services, which can be customized into protocols, ensuring complete and consistent services each and every employee sent to us for care. Services include, but are not limited to, drug and alcohol testing, TB skin testing, new hire physicals, health risk assessments, DOT physicals for Class C drivers, vaccines, nutrition counseling and weight loss.

9. How are we billed for services?
Employer Paid Services (EPS) services are those not billable through Workers’ Compensation insurance. We accept cash, and most major credit cards, with the exception of American Express. For employers with a “Workforce Option” account, we offer flexible billing, including payment per service, Net–15 or Net–30 accounts. We can also accept payments by phone. To set up a “Workforce Options” account, download, print out, and complete our Corporate Needs Assessment and either mail it or fax it back to us at the address/fax provided on the form. Otherwise, you may inquire about our EPS services by contacting us at 979–285–2273.