

The OccMed Colorado Connection

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OccMed Colorado is on the Move

The Denver metro area is growing and changing everyday. We're excited to let you know that OccMed Colorado is growing and changing right along with it. **Effective May 30**, we will move our Aurora clinic to a more convenient location at 3449 Chambers Road, Suite B.

"Our new location, which is closer to I-70, places us in a hub of business activity," said Monika Valentine, executive director of OccMed Colorado. "It will be as convenient for businesses located in Aurora as it will for those

at or near the airport and up and down the I-70 corridor. Our primary goal is to provide exemplary care to our clients' employees, returning them to work as safely and quickly as possible. We think a more convenient location will help us do our job better."

Phone and fax numbers for the Aurora office will remain the same. Hours at the new Aurora location will also remain the same, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 720-859-6139.

Meet the Staff

In each issue of The OccMed Colorado Connection, we'll introduce you to a member of our professional staff. In this issue, meet Dr. Gregory Smith.



Gregory D. Smith, D.O., is a founding partner of OccMed Colorado. He is certified by, and is a fellow of, the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, an organization for which he currently serves as Colorado chapter president. He holds Level II certification in occupational medicine.

Dr. Smith received a bachelor's degree from Baylor University and a doctor of osteopathy degree from Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Worth, Texas. He also holds a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of North Texas in Denton and a master of divinity degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He completed an internship in family practice at Dallas Family Hospital, and fellowships in family practice education at Southwestern Medical/Baylor and surgical obstetrics, St.

Anthony Hospital (Oklahoma City).

"I'm not sure if I chose occupational medicine or if it chose me," Smith said. "There are people who believe that workers' comp patients are not treated as well as other patients. I disagree. In our practice, we make sure they get the highest quality care available."

In his off hours, Dr. Smith doesn't let much grass grow under his feet. He is the Smoky Hill High School team physician and an associate pastor at Community of Grace Church. Last year, he led a medical team on a mission to Nicaragua where they treated up to 500 patients each day. Next year, he will travel to India to do the same. Closer to home, Dr. Smith has been integrally involved with the establishment of Rocky Vista College of Osteopathic Medicine, which will begin classes in 2008.



Gregory Smith, D.O.

Work-Relatedness of an Injury

In order to assess the work-relatedness of an employee's injury, occupational physicians use medical skills to establish a diagnosis and a treatment plan. They also rely on processes imposed by requirements of the workers' compensation system.

Our job as occupational health docs is complex. We must first assess whether or not there was an episode or actual event. We must understand the nature of the job and its essential functions. We must ask questions like: were there pre-existing conditions? If so, are the symptoms due to the pre-existing condition, a new injury or a temporary work-related aggravation of the pre-existing condition? Was it exacerbated, aggravated or accelerated by the injury? If there was no pre-existing condition, is the event described a probable cause? Additional diagnostic tests might be needed to define the diagnosis and help assess work-relatedness.

While doctors and insurance companies do

their jobs, what can you do to ensure that workers' comp claims are brought to fair and equitable conclusions? Here are a few suggestions:

1. Keep communication channels clear between you, the treating doctor and the workers' comp insurance adjuster.
2. Let the professionals do their work. You will be asked for input and should do so honestly and to the best of your ability.
3. Take preventive measures. Go beyond OSHA guidelines by taking other preventive measures to make sure the workplace is safe. Some occupational health practices, including OccMed Colorado, are willing to visit work sites, develop an understanding of the various work functions of your employees and make recommendations to increase safety. To schedule a work site evaluation, call Jo Mauro at 303-757-2141.

Jeff Raschbacher, M.D.

Co-Founder, OccMed Colorado



In Good Company: Southwest Airlines

In each issue of The OccMed Colorado Connection, we profile one of our client companies or a pet project in which we are involved. In this issue, we spotlight Southwest Airlines.



The newest player to enter the Denver market, Southwest Airlines began flying in and out of DIA in January. They started with two gates and 13 flights, and in March after only two months, expanded to three gates and 20 flights. "The public response has been very positive," said Paula Berg, public relations manager for Southwest Airlines.

Shortly after putting down roots at DIA, Southwest selected OccMed Colorado as its occupational health provider. The airline is well known for the way in which it values its employees. "Most companies put customers first but for us, it's our employees. They are our inventors. They keep us on the cutting

edge of innovation. They are our secret weapon for maintaining low fares," said Berg.

According to Berg, Southwest Airlines chose OccMed Colorado for several reasons, including its familiarity with the airline business (Dr. Jade Dillon, a pilot herself, is certified to provide FAA physical exams), its close proximity to the airport as well as additional convenient locations, and its working relationships with local hospitals. They also appreciate that OccMed Colorado commits 100 percent of its practice to occupational medicine. "We care for each client's employees as though they were our own," said Dr. Greg Smith, OccMed Colorado cofounder and partner, who practices at the Aurora clinic.

For more information about Southwest Airlines, visit www.southwest.com. For more information about OccMed Colorado, visit www.occmedcolorado.com or call 303-341-1799.



From the Director's Desk

Hurry, hurry, rush, rush... this seems to be today's business theme. Recently, while "parked" on I-25, a report on the radio caught my attention. "When was the last time you sat down and took a breath?" the radio announcer bellowed. As I heard this, I thought of the saying, "If you want something to get done, ask a busy person." I immediately thought of risk managers, claims adjusters and workers' comp professionals. Next the radio announcer proclaimed, "Most of America is overworked, out-of-condition and underpaid." The announcer was so cheerful, I had to change the station.

In today's hurried world, we need business relationships that have meaning. What does it take to accomplish our goals? How are we going to protect our bottom line performance and still get the job done? OccMed Colorado is committed to standing by its business partners. We want to learn more about your business so we can help you meet your objectives. What makes you successful? Is your company providing the appropriate prescreening tools it



Monika Valentine

needs in a cost-effective way? What can we do to help?

As you move into your next budget cycle, why not let us help you with an evaluation of services? We would be pleased to review your prescreen and workers' compensation programs — just let me know. You may reach me at 303-341-1799 or email me at

mvalentine@occmedcolorado.com.

Feel free to give me a call anytime. We welcome referrals. Tell your friends and business partners about OccMed Colorado. Should they designate us as their primary workers' compensation provider, we will enter you in a drawing for a special gift!

Thank you for placing your confidence in OccMed Colorado. We are here to serve your business needs.

Monika Valentine
Executive Director

If you want to get something done, ask a busy person.

Truth or Fiction?

In 2003, more than 4.3 million people in private industry experienced nonfatal injuries or illnesses on the job in the U.S. and more than 1.3 million required recuperation from work beyond the day of the incident (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). Some of the injuries are stranger than fiction — some are just fiction. In each issue of The OccMed Colorado Connection, we'll try to share one of these stories with you. You might remember this story, which is sure to be a classic.



Twenty-three-year-old Patrick Lawler, a construction worker in Breckenridge, Colo., shot himself with his own nail gun — and didn't realize it for six days. The long construction nail entered through his upper right lip and stopped itself just inside the front part of his brain — barely missing his right eye by

millimeters. The X-rays he took at the dental office where his wife works show an unbelievable sight of the nail stretching from his teeth to his skull. Initially, neither Lawler nor his doctors thought much of his toothaches and blurry vision. After he took the X-rays nearly a week after the incident, he was immediately rushed from his home down to Littleton Adventist Hospital, where the chief neurosurgeon has worked on three similar cases. The Lawlers plan to frame the X-rays, cat scans and the nail and hang them in their living room.





Occupational Medicine
and Musculoskeletal Care

P.O. Box 31129
Aurora, CO 80041

Suggestion Box

OccMed Colorado is interested in any comments, feedback or suggestions you might have. You might win an MP3 player! Let us know:

- How your employees are being treated by our staff
- If you're receiving an outstanding level of customer service
- What we can do to improve our service to you

Send your comments, which will remain confidential, via email to mvalentine@occmedcolorado.com or call 303-341-1799, ext. 214. All who submit will be entered in a drawing for a free MP3 player. Drawing will be held on Friday, August 18, 2006.



Three Convenient Locations

Aurora – NEW LOCATION!

3449 Chambers Rd., Suite B
(Just south of I-70 on Chambers)
720-859-6139

Denver

2425 S. Colorado Blvd., Suite 100
(Just north of Colorado and Yale)
303-757-2141

Thornton

550 E. Thornton Pkwy., Suite 110
(SW corner of Thornton Pkwy and Washington
in the Pinnacle Shopping Center)
720-872-0399

www.occmedcolorado.com