

FORM CA-16 · COMPANION GUIDE

Authorization for Examination and/or Treatment

The form that lets you start OWCP medical care immediately.

The CA-16 is issued by your employing agency within 4 hours of a work-related traumatic injury. It authorizes medical treatment for up to 60 days from the date of injury, even before your CA-1 is formally accepted.

When to use this form

You don't file the CA-16 yourself — your agency issues it to you. Ask for it immediately after reporting a traumatic injury. Bring the signed CA-16 to your first medical appointment; your provider needs it on file to bill OWCP for initial care.

Who issues the CA-16

Your supervisor or your agency's workers' compensation coordinator. By federal regulation, the agency must provide a CA-16 within 4 hours of your request. If they refuse or delay, document the refusal in writing — this becomes relevant if your treatment is later contested.

What the CA-16 covers

Initial examination, diagnostic testing, necessary emergency care, and treatment related to the work injury during the first 60 days. This gives you a window to start care while your CA-1 is being processed — so your injury isn't made worse by delay.

What the CA-16 does not cover

The CA-16 is not blanket authorization for all care. Specialty referrals, elective procedures, durable medical equipment, and non-emergency diagnostic testing may still require separate OWCP authorization. Your provider's office handles these case by case.

How NuThera helps

Bring your CA-16 to your first visit. Our administrative team logs it in your claim file, coordinates any additional authorizations needed, and ensures your initial 60 days of care are documented in a way that supports your CA-1's acceptance.

Get the official form:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/owcp/FECA/regs/compliance/forms>

Need help with your OWCP claim?

Call NuThera at (725) 726-7914 or request an appointment online at nuthera.us/contact. Two Southern Nevada locations, OWCP-enrolled, multidisciplinary care.