

FORM CA-17 · COMPANION GUIDE

Duty Status Report

How your doctor communicates your work capacity to your agency and to OWCP.

The CA-17 is your treating physician's formal report on your ability to work. It documents what you can and can't do physically, what accommodations you need, and whether you're cleared for regular duty, light duty, or kept out of work entirely. Your agency uses it to make return-to-work decisions.

When to use this form

Your provider completes the CA-17 at your initial evaluation after a work injury and updates it whenever your work status changes — improvement, setback, new restriction, or clearance to full duty. The CA-17 should never be more than 30 days out of date for an active claim.

What the CA-17 includes

Your diagnosis, specific physical capacities (lifting tolerance, sitting/standing time, bending, reaching), duration any restrictions will apply, whether light duty is possible, and the expected next evaluation date. Specificity matters — 'no heavy lifting' is weaker than 'no lifting greater than 15 pounds for 6 weeks, re-evaluate at follow-up.'

Why the CA-17 affects your benefits

If the CA-17 says you can do light duty and your agency offers appropriate light duty, accepting it is typically required to continue wage-replacement benefits. If no appropriate light duty is available, you may be entitled to continued wage loss compensation. The specifics on the form drive those determinations.

Coordinating with your supervisor

After your CA-17 is completed, give a copy to your supervisor and keep one in your own records. If your agency assigns you to work that exceeds your documented restrictions, report it immediately — both to your supervisor and to your NuThera provider at your next visit.

How NuThera helps

Our providers complete a new or updated CA-17 at each visit where your work status changes. We document restrictions with the specificity your agency needs and keep copies in your chart. If you're being asked to perform duties beyond your restrictions, bring it to our attention — we'll document the issue and adjust your CA-17 as clinically indicated.

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.