

## FORM CA-20 · COMPANION GUIDE

# Attending Physician's Report

The medical narrative that determines whether your OWCP claim is accepted.

The CA-20 is arguably the most important document in an OWCP claim. It's your treating physician's detailed report connecting your diagnosis to your work — the single document OWCP weighs most heavily when deciding whether to accept your claim.

## When to use this form

Your provider completes the CA-20 after initial evaluation and updates it as your condition evolves. It's required for most new claims and is typically the deciding factor in whether OWCP accepts the claim outright, issues a development letter requesting more information, or denies it.

## What a strong CA-20 contains

A clear clinical diagnosis with ICD-10 codes, a history of the injury written in the patient's words and confirmed by clinical findings, an explicit statement of causation (the injury is related to the federal employment — how and why), physical examination findings, diagnostic results, treatment plan, and prognosis.

## The causation statement

This is where most CA-20s fail. A causation statement must do more than describe the injury — it must explain *why* the work activities or events caused the condition, with clinical reasoning. 'Patient injured back at work' is weak. 'Patient's L4-L5 disc herniation is directly attributable to the lifting incident of March 14, based on mechanism of injury, timing of symptom onset, and MRI findings' is strong.

## Development letters and denials

If your CA-20 is inadequate, OWCP will issue a development letter requesting specific additional information — often within a 30-day window. Ignoring the letter leads to denial. A well-prepared physician can respond with the missing clinical reasoning and turn the claim around.

## How NuThera helps

Our providers are trained to write CA-20s that meet OWCP's clinical and evidentiary standards the first time. When development letters arrive, we respond with the specific clinical reasoning OWCP is asking for. The goal is a claim file that stands up to review without relying on appeals.

### 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](https://nuthera.us/contact). Two Southern Nevada

locations, OWCP-enrolled, multidisciplinary care.