

## **Opportunity turns to Career Passion**

Early in the 27-year career of Richard L. Hon Jr. MD FACOEM, Medical Director for MedCheck and Occupational Health Programs for the Community Health Network, he fell in love with the field of Occupational Medicine and the care of ill or injured workers. It all began with what he thought would be a short term job in Urgent Care and Occupational Medicine prior to entering an emergency medicine residency. He initially enjoyed the opportunity to assist patients with their immediate needs after an acute injury, but soon found ever increasing satisfaction in working with patients who had more complicated injuries and rehabilitation issues. It was from this experience that he chose to alter his career plans and pursue a career in Occupational Medicine. He became board certified and said that he has never regretted that decision.

The Occupational Medicine clinics with which he now works provide primary medical services to their employer community. This includes the care and treatment of work related injury and illness. The MedCheck clinics are urgent/walk-in care clinics that provide access to service 24/7 and also provide afterhours care for workman's compensation case. They also provide on-site health care services to a variety of employers – primarily in central Indiana – that include care of workman's compensation cases as well as primary care and wellness services.

There are challenges that present themselves even the most rewarding of careers. Dr. Hon states that the most challenging aspect of worker's comp cases is dealing with a set of legal constraints, authorization of care/treatment limitations, and patient compliance issues that can limit the effectiveness of the medical care and make the coordination of care more difficult.

For Dr. Hon, the most rewarding aspect of his involvement with workers' compensation is successfully helping a patient recover from a work related injury or illness despite the above mentioned barriers. He added, "I find it interesting that the very challenges that can make the job frustrating can also set the stage for some of our most rewarding successes."

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