

The Official Quick Start Guide to understanding Commercial Insurance for Home Health Agencies

While every Home Health Agency need is different, we find that most start out with these commercial insurance coverage forms.

General Liability: This is the most common coverage form and it covers a wide range of perils. The most common incident that would trigger general liability is when there is damage to a client's property. For example, a caregiver starts a fire when in the kitchen or breaks something in the home that belongs to the client. This coverage form would also come to play if a 3rd party on the premises were to slip and fall as well and responding to allegations of libel or slander.

Professional Liability: Many agencies are non-medical homecare providers. Therefore they think they don't need this coverage form. However, most general liability policies include an exclusion for professional liability. Professional liability provides coverage when there is damage to a client due to allegations of improper care and/or the absence of proper care. Here are a few sample claims: Bed sores not properly treated or reported. Bathing burns from scalding hot water. Client falls down stairs when assisted to prevent falling.

Non-Owned Auto Liability: Non-owned auto liability is designed to protect the agency for the risk of having employees drive their own vehicles or a client's vehicle while on the job. For example, if an employee is driving a client on an errand and runs over a pedestrian. This coverage would help protect the agency above any liability coverage the employee has personally.

Commercial Crime Bond: Whenever there are allegations of employee theft from a client's home a commercial crime bond would be the appropriate coverage. Unfortunately, the most common claim in home care is theft. Some of the more common claims are theft of personal items such as drugs, jewelry, or other valuables as well as the unauthorized use of credit cards.

Workers Compensation: This coverage form is not mandatory in all states. However when written, workers compensation covers on-the-job injuries to employees.

Here are a few other coverage forms useful to some Home Care Agencies

Business Personal Property: The coverage form protects your business personal property from loss. Items should as copiers, desks, chairs, and computers to name a few.

Business Income Replacement and Extra Expense: In the event of a catastrophic claim and the business was shut down, this coverage forms could be beneficial to your agency.

Employment Practices Liability Insurance: This coverage form responds to employment related claims such as EEOC claims, failure to promote, age discrimination, etc.

Umbrella Liability: Extends the limits of insurance available on underlying policies.

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