

Case 1**Re:** Sammy R**Date of Injury:** 12/6/06

Mr. R was injured after he slipped on gravel, twisting his right ankle at his drop-off location at the end of his shift. He was running after the drop-off van in which he had inadvertently left his car keys. That day, he was evaluated in the ER. Right ankle x-rays were unremarkable. He was diagnosed with a right ankle strain.

He was examined again on 12/7/06 in Urgent Care. His right ankle had ecchymosis over the lateral malleolus. He had good strength. He was examined again on 12/12/06. He had soft tissue swelling at the lateral malleolus and anterior talofibular ligament. He had no ligamentous instability. He was to continue the use of crutches and right ankle splint and to not weight bear with his right ankle.

On 12/22/06, he is re-examined. He is improving. He had full range of motion. Stress testing showed no instability. Dr R emphasized range of motion exercises daily. He is re-examined on 12/29/06, with persistent right ankle pain. He is unable to tolerate wearing tennis shoes with a Velcro support, so he is wearing high top leather boots for additional support. He had no ligamentous instability. He had tenderness with lateral stress. Repeat x-rays show no fluid in joint and no fractures.

Mr R was treated for four weeks until his claim was denied in January 2007.

Is this an OSHA Recordable?

If yes, then why?

If no, then why not?

Is this a workman's comp injury?

If yes, then why?

If no, then why?

His claim was accepted in July 2008, 18 months later.

He attempts to return to his treating doctor. The medical providers inform him that they have not yet been paid for their previously services. He is refused care, despite having the claim re-opened. The providers are under the impression his claim remains denied.

What could be done by the following to help the worker?

Claims adjuster?

Doctor?

Employer?

He is seen for a medical arbiter exam in October 2008.

He reports currently that he has a continuous pain. Daily he wears a heavy boot to immobilize his right ankle, this decreases his pain. He has worn the heavy boot since the accident.

His gait was slow and he guards his right ankle. Due to concern over pain, he was unable to toe walk or heel walk. He was able to tandem walk.

On palpation, he has pain in the right ankle from the posterior of the medial malleolus, to the lateral malleolus, and anteriorly. He has pain with passive movement and guards against that, especially with inversion and eversion. He was unable to actively evert or invert his right ankle. His other range of motion is also diminished.

	Flexion (plantar)	Extension (dorsi)	Inversion	Eversion
Right	35	20	0	0
Left	75	30	20	20

He now has chronic right ankle strain with adhesive capsulitis, medical sequelae because the right ankle was held to minimal mobilization after the injury.

What were the worker's consequences from lack of treatment?

When can a medical provider refuse treatment?

What could have been done by the following to help the worker?

Claims adjuster?

Doctor?

Employer?