

# PAF Guidelines Project Newsletter

*News on the development of new Pre-approved Framework (PAF) Guidelines for treatment of auto accident injuries under the Statutory Accident Benefits Schedule.*

January 23, 2006

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The PAF Guidelines Project Newsletter is a quarterly source of information for auto insurance stakeholders.

The Newsletter provides timely project updates and offers stakeholders the opportunity to submit their feedback throughout the course of the PAF Guidelines Project.

The Newsletter is produced and distributed by the Financial Services Commission of Ontario (FSCO).

If you would prefer to receive this Newsletter electronically, please forward your request to: [PAFproject@fSCO.gov.on.ca](mailto:PAFproject@fSCO.gov.on.ca).

## Project Background

The creation of new Pre-approved Framework (PAF) Guidelines is a government commitment. FSCO is leading the PAF Guidelines Project through a project structure designed to maximize opportunity for stakeholder input.

Four new PAF Guidelines are planned for development over the next three years. The new PAF Guidelines will help people who have been injured in auto accidents to receive early and effective treatment.

We expect that the first new PAF Guideline will be issued by the Superintendent of Financial Services in the summer of 2006.

## New Developments

### *Committees at Work*

The PAF Guidelines Project relies on its committee structure to ensure that the new PAF Guidelines reflect the best of clinical practice and are useful to our stakeholders. The internal FSCO PAF Project Management Committee, made up of FSCO staff and our consultants, continues to meet regularly to guide and monitor the project day to day.

In October, the PAF Project Advisory Committee, whose members represent stakeholders, held its first meeting. You will remember from the last newsletter that the terms of reference for this committee include: advising on PAF Guidelines policies and processes, advising on which injury/impairment groups should be a priority focus, advising on stakeholder issues and resolutions, monitoring major project milestones and advising on adjustments as required,

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## *Committees at Work (continued)*

advising on an economic model development process, advising on an evaluation system, nominating qualified individuals for PAF Technical Working Committee(s) and continually updating and communicating with its respective constituent groups.

At the PAF Project Advisory Committee meeting, the group reviewed its role and mandate, discussed possible criteria for selecting the impairment/injury for the first PAF Guideline and reviewed considerations around the selection of nominees to the Technical Working Committee. The next PAF Project Advisory Committee meeting will take place on February 9th.

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## *Subject Area for the First New PAF Guideline*

The Project Management Committee decided that the first new PAF Guideline priority will be injuries classified as WAD I, WAD II and WAD III. As well, the Committee will explore extending the time frame that is covered by the existing PAFs and consider the psychological impacts that may accompany WAD I, II and III injuries.

The first new PAF Guideline was arrived at based on input from the Project Advisory Committee and considerations included the frequency and cost of treatment of particular injuries/impairments, its amenability to treatment under a Guideline and the availability of scientific literature in the subject area.

Over the course of the PAF Guidelines Project, we will be soliciting additional input and advice on the development of subsequent PAF Guidelines. This process will include further input from the PAF Project Advisory Committee and additional stakeholder consultations.

It is anticipated that the new PAF Guideline will replace the existing WAD I and WAD II PAF Guidelines.

## *Technical Working Committee - Updates and Appointments*

As noted in the last Newsletter, each PAF Guideline will have a separate Technical Working Committee with expertise in the subject injury/impairment. The Technical Working Committee for the first new PAF Guideline has been established and is made up of individuals with clinical and/or adjudication expertise, knowledge and expertise in the treatment of whiplash and associated injuries, and a familiarity with the healthcare and/or insurance industry. Members include:

Arthur Ameis, M.D., FRCPC (Physiatry), FAAPMR

David Cassidy, Ph.D., Dr.Med.Sc.

Rehan Dost, M.D. FRCPC (Neurology)

Dennis Giesbrecht, BRE (Hons), BMUS, RMT

Anita Gross, BSc., MSc., Dip. Manip Ther, FCAMT

Rocco Guerriero, B.Sc., D.C., FCCSS(c), FCCRS(c), FCCO(c)

Carol MacDonald, B.A., B.Sc., O.T.



## *Technical Working Committee (continued)*

Robert Notkin, M.D. FRCPC (Psychiatry)

Amber Paterson, Ph.D., C.Psych.

Viivi Riis, BScPT, MSc(c)

Mario Silvestre, FCIP

Dawn Zivanovich, MSW, RSW

The following are the Terms of Reference for the Technical Working Committee:

- To review and confirm the outcome of the examination of scientific literature
- To advise the consultants on gaps in the scientific literature
- To advise on the expected course of treatment to support the PAF Guideline
- To advise on operationalizing the PAF Guideline, and
- To advise on evaluation of the PAF Guideline.

The Technical Working Committee held its first meeting in December and was asked to provide our consulting team with suggestions about articles or other sources of information related to the subject area of the first new PAF Guideline.

Our team of consultants is preparing a draft Background Paper which is expected in February 2006. The draft Background Paper will include a review of the scientific literature and best practices, where available.

Next, the Technical Working Committee will review the draft Background Paper. Following further input and broader stakeholder consultations (across four selected regions in Ontario), the draft PAF Guideline will be developed.

## **Broader Stakeholder Consultations**

As mentioned, our consultants will hold meetings in various geographic regions in the province to obtain feedback from stakeholders on a Background Paper, scheduled for release in mid-February, and other issues related to the new PAF Guidelines.

Our consultants anticipate that the consultation meetings will be held during the weeks of March 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Further information regarding the dates and locations of the consultations will be made available soon. If you are interested in attending one of these meetings, please send an e-mail to [PAFproject@fSCO.gov.on.ca](mailto:PAFproject@fSCO.gov.on.ca).

*We welcome your  
feedback or  
questions.  
Contact us about  
anything  
regarding the  
PAF Guideline  
Project at  
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fSCO.gov.on.ca](mailto:PAFproject@fSCO.gov.on.ca)*



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## What to Watch For

- Distribution of the Background Paper in mid-February
- Regional consultations -- tentative for weeks of March 20<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup> , 2006
- Next Newsletter in April, 2006

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ISSN 1715-8931



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