

PAF Guidelines Project Newsletter

October 14, 2005

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

First Edition of PAF Guidelines Newsletter

This is the first edition of the PAF Guidelines Project Newsletter, a quarterly source of information for auto insurance stakeholders.

The Newsletter will provide timely project updates and offer stakeholders opportunities 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 and not via regular mail, please forward your request to:

PAFproject@fSCO.gov.on.ca.

Project Background

The creation of new 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.

Like the existing PAF Guidelines (for minor whiplash injuries), the new PAF Guidelines will cover injuries that are the result of an auto accident. Like the existing PAF Guidelines, the new PAF Guidelines will include applicable fees. We expect that the first new PAF Guideline will be issued by the Superintendent of Financial Services in the summer of 2006.

Project Structure

We want to ensure that the new PAF Guidelines reflect the best of clinical practice and are useful to our stakeholders. The project will be made up of three types of committees to ensure our objectives are met: an internal FSCO Project Management Committee, a PAF Project Advisory Committee and a separate PAF Technical Working Committee for each new Guideline.

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Project Management Committee

As members of the **Project Management Committee**, FSCO staff and our consultants will guide and monitor the project on a day to day basis. This committee will identify and address issues or concerns about the PAF Guidelines Project. The Committee's tasks include:

- advising/updating the Superintendent on the progress of the Project;
- providing support to the PAF Project Manager;
- preparing and distributing communication material;
- planning for PAF Project Advisory Committee meetings; and
- monitoring the progress of, and providing guidance to, the PAF Guidelines Project.

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Project Advisory Committee

Members of the **PAF Project Advisory Committee** will advise FSCO on issues associated with the PAF Guidelines. This Committee will meet quarterly, or more often if needed. The first meeting is scheduled for October 20th. The PAF Project Advisory Committee's tasks include:

- advising on PAF Guidelines policies and processes;
- advising on which injury/impairment groups should be a priority focus;
- advising on stakeholder issues and resolution;
- monitoring major project milestones and advising on adjustments as required;
- advising on economic model development process;
- advising on evaluation system;
- nominating qualified individuals for PAF Technical Working Committee(s); and
- continually updating and communicating with their respective constituent groups.

We asked those stakeholder groups whose members are very interested in the PAF Guidelines to select representatives for the PAF Project Advisory Committee. The members of the Committee include:

John Berriault	Insurers
Allan Bierbrier	Corporate Health Group
Steven Firestone	The Advocates Society
Charles Gluckstein	Ontario Trial Lawyers Association
Dr. Bob Haig	Chiropractic
Darlene Hall	FSCO (Chair)
Willie Handler	FSCO
Wendy Hunter	Massage Therapy
Dr. Faith Kaplan	Psychology
Andrew McCormack	Insurers
John McLean	Insurers
Carol Moore	Social Workers



Project Advisory Committee (continued)

Ed Mulvihill	Ministry of Finance
Dr. Michael Ross	Medical
Karen Rucas	Occupational Therapy
Dorianne Sauvé	Physiotherapy
Greg Somerville	Insurers
Whipple Steinkrauss	Consumers Council of Canada
Barbara Sulzenko-Laurie	Insurers

Stakeholders who wish to submit comments to the PAF Project Advisory Committee can direct them to the Committee's Chair at: PAFadvisorycommitteechair@fSCO.gov.on.ca.

Alternately, members of the PAF Project Advisory Committee may be contacted directly.

Technical Working Committees

The **Technical Working Committees** will have varying membership to reflect the subject matter of each new PAF Guideline and will provide input on the technical aspects of the particular PAF Guideline, including clinical protocols, operational issues and evaluation concerns. The selection of representatives on this committee will be based on the specific injury/impairment that is to be determined. Once determined, appropriate subject matter experts will be invited to sit on the committee for the duration of the protocol development. Their names will be included in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Our Team of Consultants

To help in the development of these new PAF Guidelines, FSCO has retained the services of a health management consulting firm. Corporate Health Group Inc. is experienced in project management, program development and strategic planning for health care and government sectors.

Corporate Health Group Inc. has assembled a team of consultants with in-depth knowledge and expertise in auto insurance, working with government regulatory authorities, and conducting broad participatory stakeholder consultations.

The consultants involved with Corporate Health Group Inc. on this assignment include: Allan Bierbrier, M.H.A., Gary Sandor, M.S.W., Liz Mullan, B.Sc. O.T., O.T. (Reg) and Sally Nikolaj, PhD.

What to Watch For

- Subject area for the first new PAF Guideline
- Identification of members for the first PAF Technical Working Committee
- First new PAF Guideline in draft form to be circulated in February, 2006
- Next Newsletter issued in January, 2006

We welcome your feedback or questions. Contact us about anything to do with the PAF Guideline Project at PAFproject@fSCO.gov.on.ca

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