

PAF Guidelines Project Newsletter

June 9, 2006

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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.

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.

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.

The new PAF Guidelines will help people who have been injured in auto accidents to receive early and effective treatment.

Updates

Committee Overview

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.

Project Management Committee

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.

PAF Project Advisory Committee

The PAF Project Advisory Committee's role is to:

- Advise on PAF Guidelines policies and processes;



PAF Project Advisory Committee (continued)

- Advise on which injury/impairment groups should be the focus of the PAF Guidelines;
- Advise on stakeholder issues and resolution;
- Review the major project milestones and make adjustments as required;
- Advise on the economic model development process; and
- Continually update their respective constituent groups.

The regional stakeholder consultation meetings took place between April 24 and May 4, 2006.

The PAF Project Advisory Committee met as a group in February and March 2006. The Project Advisory Committee suggested expanded time frames for stakeholder consultation and the project workplan was adjusted accordingly. The Project Advisory Committee met again on May 11 and provided focused direction to improve the existing PAF Guidelines associated with WAD I and II type injuries.

PAF Technical Working Committee

Each PAF Guideline will have a separate Technical Working Committee with expertise in the specific injury/impairment that is the focus of the particular Guideline. The Technical Working Committee for the first PAF Guideline is made up of individuals who have clinical and/or adjudication expertise, knowledge of the treatment of whiplash associated disorders, and a familiarity with the healthcare and/or insurance industry.

In March and April, members of the Technical Working Committee were asked to review the draft background paper that was developed to support the first PAF Guideline. They provided feedback to our consultants regarding the content and the scientific literature summarized in the draft background paper. It was agreed that the draft background paper would be updated to reflect the input and suggestions made.

The Technical Working Committee also suggested that the stakeholder consultation process be used as an opportunity for individual stakeholders to provide feedback on how the existing WAD I and WAD II PAF Guidelines are working and to offer recommendations for improvements.

Regional Stakeholder Meetings

The regional stakeholder consultation meetings took place between April 24 and May 4, 2006, in Sudbury, London, Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton and were facilitated by the project consultants.

Stakeholders in attendance included insurers, health care providers and lawyers. Generally, participants presented a balanced point-of-view.



Regional Stakeholder Meetings (continued)

There was useful dialogue, in-depth discussion and varied viewpoints presented. Written submissions were also received from individuals who were unable to attend one of the consultation sessions.

A number of themes emerged from the stakeholder consultations which were then brought forward to the various project committees. These included:

1. Education and training for stakeholders regarding the system and the PAF Guidelines
2. Standardize and simplify forms
3. Focus on data quality
4. Focus on evaluation, accountability and outcomes
5. Focus on claimant's functional status and functional improvement
6. Review 28 day restriction
7. Enforce requirement to submit OCF 24

These themes and related suggestions will be considered as the work continues on the development of new PAF Guidelines.

Next Steps

Based on the technical input and feedback from the Technical Working Committee, guidance and direction from the Project Advisory Committee, and input from the regional stakeholder consultations, the first new PAF Guideline will focus on improvements to the current PAF Guidelines associated with WAD I and II type injuries.

These improvements will be based on the specific recommendations received. The revised PAF Guidelines will be developed and discussed with the Project Committees. They will also be available for wider distribution, review and discussion. We expect the revised PAF Guidelines to be issued by the Superintendent of Financial Services in early 2007.

What to Watch For

- Background paper in July 2006
- Next Newsletter in July 2006

*We welcome your
feedback or
questions.
Contact us about
anything
regarding the
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