

PAF Guidelines Project Newsletter

November 9, 2006

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 periodic 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.

The PAF Background Paper was posted on FSCO's website on October 24, 2006

PAF Background Paper

The purpose of the PAF Background Paper is to provide a summary of the scientific literature related to the assessment and treatment of WAD I and WAD II in the acute/sub-acute phases of recovery (approximately the first 6 weeks following a whiplash injury). The Background Paper information is relevant to the existing WAD I and WAD II PAF Guidelines and the findings will be used to help shape and improve the new PAF Guidelines.

The Corporate Health Group (CHG), health care consultants retained by FSCO to help develop the new PAF Guidelines, prepared the Background Paper, which includes a summary of the literature pertaining to the classification, incidence, assessment and treatment of WAD type injuries. In addition, the Background Paper's appendices contain information on existing clinical practice guidelines and other jurisdiction's experiences where clinical guidelines have been introduced.

The PAF Background Paper was developed with the CHG working in conjunction with the PAF Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Technical Working Committee (TWC). The PAC is composed of health care providers, insurers, lawyers, and consumer representatives and the TWC is composed of clinical experts. Both committees provide advice to FSCO on issues arising from the PAF project.

The Background Paper is posted on the FSCO website: www.fSCO.gov.on.ca.

We welcome your feedback or questions. Contact us about anything regarding the PAF Guideline Project at PAFproject@fscsco.gov.on.ca

New Developments

PAF Guidelines Draft Treatment Outline

In June 2006, CHG presented to PAC the first draft of a WAD I and WAD II PAF treatment outline. The outline consists of a flow chart divided into four phases: initial visit, acute phase, sub-acute phase, and the post PAF phase, with related timeframes. In each phase, different assessments, interventions, and discharge options are presented.

The PAC and the TWC have provided extensive feedback on the proposed outline, and their feedback has resulted in changes and further refinements to it. CHG has begun work on a revised draft PAF Guideline that will incorporate the outline and describe in more detail the assessments, interventions, and discharge options presented in the outline.

Stakeholder Consultations

In late fall, CHG will again hold consultation meetings with health care providers, insurers and lawyers. At that time, stakeholders will be able to comment on the PAF treatment protocol outline and narrative. 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@fscsco.gov.on.ca.

What to Watch For

- Regional stakeholder consultations beginning in late fall 2006
- Next Newsletter Winter 2007

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