



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 4, 2008

TO: Health Care Providers and Insurance Carriers in the Texas Workers' Compensation System

FROM: Matthew Zurek, Executive Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Research

RE: Monthly Updates to *Official Disability Guidelines - Treatment in Workers' Comp*

The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) and the Work Loss Data Institute, publishers of the *Official Disability Guidelines - Treatment in Workers' Comp* (ODG), have partnered to produce a monthly update to inform system participants of changes that have occurred in the online version of the ODG during the preceding month. TDI-DWC adopted the ODG, excluding the return to work pathways, on December 29, 2006 as the treatment guidelines in the Texas workers' compensation system. The treatment guideline rule was effective May 1, 2007 and applies to all injuries that occurred on or after January 1, 1991.

The online version of the ODG is frequently updated. Health care providers must use the most current edition of the publication on the date medical service is rendered. The monthly updates are for informational purposes only and are not a substitute for the ODG.

TDI-DWC will post monthly updates to the online version of the ODG to the TDI website each month. The first monthly update details changes that occurred in February, March, April and May of 2008 and is available, at the following link: <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/dm/documents/odgupdates.pdf>. Information concerning the ODG is available at the following link: http://www.worklossdata.com/PR_Texas.htm.

28 Texas Administrative Code §137.100 also states that any treatment or service that is not recommended by the ODG, exceeds the ODG, or that is not addressed by the ODG must be preauthorized.

Questions concerning the monthly updates to the ODG may be directed to Chuck Whitacre at (512) 804-4689 or medical.benefits@tdi.state.tx.us.