

<b>NOTICE NUMBER:</b>	<b>07-2014</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>CLARIFICATION REGARDING SPINAL INJURIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE RENEWED DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT PROTOCOLS REGULATION (116/2014)</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>September 2014</b>

**NOTE:** The original [Diagnostic and Treatment Protocols Regulation \(122/2004\)](#) (DTPR) applies to any collisions occurring **on or before June 30, 2014**. Bulletins [02-2005](#) and [08-2005](#) still apply to these collisions.

Collisions occurring **on or after July 1, 2014** will follow the [renewed DTPR \(116/2014\)](#).

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this Notice is to clarify some items surrounding the [renewed DTPR \(116/2014\)](#), which came into force on **July 1, 2014**.

### Use of International Classification of Diseases codes

For the purposes of the DTPR, injuries related to the spine should be diagnosed and treated in accordance with the criteria set out under *Division 2 – Diagnostic and Treatment Protocol for Whiplash Associated Disorder Injuries – Cervical, Thoracic, Lumbar and Lumbosacral* (sections 10-14) of the renewed DTPR (116/2014).

When diagnosing injuries related to the spine as either a WAD I or WAD II, practitioners should include the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10-CA) codes when filling out the Treatment Plan AB-2 form. See the chart below for guidance.

INJURY	DTPR DIAGNOSIS	ICD-10-CA
Cervical (WAD I or II)	Whiplash Associated Disorder ( <b>WAD I</b> ) with complaint of neck pain, stiffness or tenderness (no physical signs, whiplash not otherwise specified)	S13.40
	Whiplash Associated Disorder ( <b>WAD II</b> ) with complaint of neck pain with musculoskeletal signs (decreased range of motion and point tenderness)	S13.41
Thoracic (WAD I or II)	Sprain and strain of thoracic spine ( <b>WAD I or II</b> )	S23.3
Lumbar / Lumbosacral (WAD I or II)	Sprain and strain of lumbar spine ( <b>WAD I or II</b> )	S33.5

## Bulletins

Please note that parts of the following Superintendent of Insurance Bulletins are obsolete for collisions occurring on or after July 1, 2014. These bulletins have been updated to reflect that for the purposes of the DTPR, injuries related to the spine should be diagnosed and treated in accordance with the criteria set out under *Division 2 – Diagnostic and Treatment Protocol for Whiplash Associated Disorder Injuries – Cervical, Thoracic, Lumbar and Lumbosacral* (sections 10-14) of the renewed DTPR (116/2014).

- [02-2005](#) – *Automobile Insurance Update* – re-issued as [08-2014](#)
- [08-2005](#) – *Automobile Insurance Update – Important Changes and Reminders* – re-issued as [09-2014](#)

The updated bulletins are applicable to collisions occurring on or after July 1, 2014.

Bulletins [02-2005](#) and [08-2005](#) continue to be applicable to collisions occurring on or before June 30, 2014.

The [Guide for Health Care Practitioners](#) issued on October 1, 2004, as well as the Treatment Plan AB-2 form, will be updated to reflect these changes.

Any questions regarding the contents of this Notice may be directed to the Office of the Superintendent of Insurance, either by e-mail at [TBF.insurance@gov.ab.ca](mailto:TBF.insurance@gov.ab.ca), or by telephone at (780) 427-8322 (toll-free in Alberta by first dialing 310-0000).

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