
NOTICE NUMBER:	03-2014
TITLE:	RENEWED DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT PROTOCOLS REGULATION
DATE:	June 2014

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Notice is to advise that the [renewed Diagnostic and Treatment Protocols Regulation](#) (regulation) will come into force on **July 1, 2014**.

This is the first update to the regulation since it took effect on October 1, 2004. The changes are administrative in nature and do not include any significant policy changes. The changes will clarify processes and modernize the clinical language of the regulation.

This update does not change benefits such as the number of treatments allowed or the type of treatments available for Albertans who are eligible to be treated under the regulation.

Some changes to the regulation include:

- Adding a definition of “spine”, as well as “physician”;
- Clarifying that whiplash associated disorder (WAD) injuries include not only the cervical region of the spine, but also the thoracic, lumbar, and lumbosacral regions of the spine;
- Consolidating the treatment protocols for strains and sprains to reduce duplication; and,
- Referencing the most current version of the *Orthopedic Physical Assessment* (2014) to diagnose strains and sprains. Notable changes include:
 - For 3rd degree strains, “Crushing” is no longer a Mechanism of Injury
 - Also for 3rd degree strains, Muscle Spasm is “moderate” and no longer “major”

Please review the entire regulation to view all of the incorporated changes (link below).

The Interpretive Bulletin/Guide for Healthcare Practitioners issued on October 1, 2004, will be updated shortly to reflect these changes.

Access to the renewed Diagnostic and Treatment Protocols Regulation

As of July 1, 2014 a copy of the regulation will be available here:

<http://www.qp.alberta.ca/>

If you have questions regarding this Notice, please contact our office, either by e-mail at TBF.insurance@gov.ab.ca, or by phone at (780) 427-8322 (toll-free in Alberta by first dialing 310-0000).

[ORIGINAL SIGNED]

Mark Prefontaine
Superintendent of Insurance

Superintendent of Insurance

402 Terrace Building
9515 – 107 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 2C3
Telephone: 780-427-8322
Facsimile: 780-420-0752
www.finance.alberta.ca