



Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Court

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SPECIAL ADVISORY NOTICE REGARDING USE OF OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES (ODG) FOR CARE OF INJURED WORKERS

To: Workers' Compensation Insurance Carriers, Self-Insured Employers, Group Self-Insurance Associations, CompSource Oklahoma, Third Party Administrators, Injured Workers, Attorneys, Other Interested Parties

From: Court Administrator Michael Clingman

Date: March 21, 2012

This is a special advisory notice concerning use of the *Official Disabilities Guidelines (ODG)* for care of injured workers. It supercedes the previously distributed March 1, 2012 notice regarding use of the ODG.

The Work Loss Data Institute's ***Official Disability Guidelines (ODG)*** was adopted as the standard for determining the scope and duration of medical treatment in workers' compensation effective March 1, 2012. See 85 O.S., §326(G). For information about Work Loss Data Institute, visit www.worklossdata.com or contact Work Loss Data Institute at 1-800-488-5548. To order ODG, call 1-800-488-5548 or go to www.worklossdata.com/orderform_ok.htm. The ODG is not available for purchase from the Court.

Oklahoma Treatment Guidelines (OTG) developed by the state Physician Advisory Committee and adopted as provided by law, govern medical care not covered by the ODG or not recommended by ODG for injuries to the cervical, thoracic or lumbar spine, and for continuing medical maintenance or pain management, once the OTG become operative. See 85 O.S., §326.

At this time, OTG for the spine are being developed by the Physician Advisory Committee. They are subject to a multi-tiered review process and become operative 30 days after adjournment of the Oklahoma Legislature, unless disapproved as provided by law. See 85 O.S., §373(B)(5). Notice of the operative date or disapproval of these OTG will be posted on the Workers' Compensation Court's web site at http://www.owcc.state.ok.us/whats_new.htm.

OTG for use of Schedule II Drugs have been adopted by the Physician Advisory Committee pursuant to 85 O.S., §373(B)(6) and approved by the Court Administrator, effective/operative on April 2, 2012. Go to http://www.owcc.state.ok.us/whats_new.htm to access these guidelines.

Unless otherwise determined by a court of law, treatment guidelines for the spine and regarding chronic pain that were adopted by the Physician Advisory Committee before August 26, 2011 remain in effect until the OTG become operative or if disapproved. To access these previously adopted guidelines, go to <http://www.owcc.state.ok.us/Guidelines.htm>.