



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Industrial Accidents

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JOHN C. CHAPMAN
Acting Commissioner

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 315

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: JOHN C. CHAPMAN, ACTING COMMISSIONER

RE: AMENDMENTS TO TREATMENT GUIDELINES FOR APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY TREATMENT BASED UPON DIAGNOSIS OF INJURY AND ILLNESS:

NO. 1 CARPAL TUNNEL SYNDROME

NO. 2 CARPAL TUNNEL RELEASE - SURGICAL

DATE: JUNE 14, 2004

Please be advised that amendments to two Treatment Guidelines relating to appropriate and necessary treatment based on diagnosis and illness for use by health care providers in the treatment of injuries and illnesses pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 152, section 13, as amended by St. 1991 c. 398, section 34, have been endorsed by the Health Care Services Board and adopted by the Commissioner of the Department of Industrial Accidents. For each amended Treatment Guideline, the Department will also revise the matching Review Criteria to be applied to said Treatment Guidelines. The Commissioner of the Department has adopted amendments to the following:

Treatment Guideline Number 1

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Treatment Guideline Number 2

Carpal Tunnel Release-Surgical

Pursuant to 452 CMR 6.00 *et seq.*, the amendments to Treatment Guidelines Nos. 1 and 2 and their respective Review Criteria shall be effective March 13, 2004 and shall apply to all claims regardless of the date of injury for those health care services rendered on or after December 1, 1999.

Copies are currently available from the Department's Public Information Office and are also posted on the Department's website: www.mass.gov/dia. Any and all further amendments to the Treatment Guidelines and Review Criteria will be periodically published and made available from the website and from the Public Information Office.