

By: Carona

S.B. No. 1572

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to workers' compensation treatment guidelines and  
3 protocols.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 413.011, Labor Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 413.011. REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES AND GUIDELINES;  
8 TREATMENT GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS.

9 SECTION 2. Subsections (e) and (f), Section 413.011, Labor  
10 Code, are amended to read as follows:

11 (e) The commission by rule may adopt treatment guidelines,  
12 including return-to-work guidelines, and individual treatment  
13 protocols. Except as otherwise provided by this subsection [~~if~~  
14 ~~adopted~~], the treatment guidelines and protocols [~~adopted~~] must be  
15 nationally recognized, scientifically valid, and outcome-based and  
16 designed to reduce excessive or inappropriate medical care while  
17 safeguarding necessary medical care. If a nationally recognized  
18 treatment guideline or protocol is not available for adoption by  
19 the commission, the commission may adopt another treatment  
20 guideline or protocol as long as it is scientifically valid and  
21 outcome-based.

22 (f) The commission by rule may establish medical policies or  
23 treatment guidelines or protocols relating to necessary treatments  
24 for injuries.

1           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.