

AN ACT

relating to workers' compensation treatment guidelines and protocols.

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

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

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1572 passed the Senate on  
May 8, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1572 passed the House on  
May 23, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 145, Nays 0, two  
present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor