

Assessment of Public Comment

During the public comment period, the Board received approximately 3 unique written comments.

One comment, from an insurance group, supported the proposal of the new Medical Treatment Guidelines.

Hand, Wrist & Forearm Injuries

One comment, from an insurance carrier, objected to the recommendation for systemic Glucocorticosteroids in section C.1.f.v. and the recommendation for surgery after 2 Glucocorticosteroid injections in section C.1.h.i. A second comment from the same insurance carrier also opined that the injections should not be necessary before surgery, as they are invasive and painful, and there are other options. The Board has made a clarifying change to this MTG in response to this comment.

One comment also pointed out several typographical errors, which have been fixed.

Asthma

The comment from an insurance group also recommended including purse lip breathing and peripheral edema under “inspection for stigmata pulmonary disease” in section B.2.a.iii. The same comment also recommended adding recent upper respiratory infection to “relative contraindications” in Section D.1.c. The Board believes the language in the MTG is sufficient and did not make a change in response to this comment.

One comment from an insurance carrier suggested adding additional criteria to the method section of the Specific Inhalation Challenge. The Board has added clarifying language to this section in response to this comment.

The comment also recommended changing the Return to Work section to state that return to work status is “a vital” part of medical care that “must” be included in the treatment and rehabilitation plan (rather than “should”). This comment is not specific to Asthma, and the Board has not made a change to this MTG in response to this comment, but will review this separately to determine if a more global change should be made.

Changes made:

General

- Fix typographical errors
- Delete specific references to each MTG to refer globally to MTGs
- Added language to the carpal tunnel syndrome paragraph to make clear that it is effective until the Hand, Wrist, and Forearm Injuries MTG takes effect
- Amend section 324.2(b) to clarify that the MTGs can be obtained for free and clarify the process for obtaining copies of the MTGs

Hand, Wrist & Forearm Injuries

- Added language clarifying that the decision to perform a second injection must be weighed against alternative treatments such as surgery

Asthma

- Added clarifying language to the Specific Inhalation Challenge