

TITLE 20. COMMERCE, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, AND INSURANCE

CHAPTER 5. INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF ARIZONA

2. State an alternate manner or method of making, keeping, and preserving records that will enable the Department to determine hours worked and wages paid; and
 3. Include the signature of the employer or an authorized representative of the employer.
- C. Subject to any conditions or limitations necessary to ensure fulfillment of the purpose and intent of Act, the Department may grant a petition for exception if it finds that:
1. The small employer, or category of small employer is unreasonably burdened by the recordkeeping requirements of the Act and this Article; and
 2. The relief requested and alternative proposed will not hinder the Department's enforcement of the Act and this Article.
- D. For good cause, the Department may rescind a prior order granting relief under this Section.
- E. Relief under this Section is effective upon the Department's written authorization.

Historical Note

New Section made by emergency rulemaking at 13 A.A.R. 473, effective January 25, 2007 for 180 days (Supp. 07-1). Emergency renewed at 13 A.A.R. 2785, effective July 17, 2007 for 180 days (Supp. 07-3). New Section made by final rulemaking at 13 A.A.R. 4315, effective January 13, 2008 (Supp. 07-4).

ARTICLE 13. TREATMENT GUIDELINES**R20-5-1301. Adoption and Applicability of the Article**

- A. The Industrial Commission of Arizona (Commission) has adopted the Work Loss Data Institute's *Official Disability Guidelines – Treatment in Workers Compensation* (ODG) as the standard reference for evidence-based medicine used in treating injured workers within the context of Arizona's workers' compensation system. By adopting and referencing the most recent edition (at the time of treatment), and continuously updated Official Disability Guidelines, the Commission can ensure the latest available medical evidence is used in making medical treatment decisions for injured workers.
- B. Until further action of the Commission, the guidelines shall apply to all body parts and conditions.
- C. The Commission may modify or change the applicability of the guidelines as described in subsection (B) if the Commission determines that modification or changing the applicability of the guidelines will: 1) improve medical treatment for injured workers, 2) make treatment and claims processing more efficient and cost effective, and 3) if the Commission's modification expands the applicability of the guidelines, the guidelines adequately cover the relevant body parts or conditions. Before taking action to modify or change the applicability of the guidelines, the Commission shall provide an opportunity for public comment and hold a public hearing. A decision of the Commission under this subsection shall be made by a majority vote of a quorum of Commission members present at a public meeting.
- D. Action taken by the Commission to modify or change the applicability of the guidelines under subsection (C) shall be published in the minutes of the Commission meeting when such action was taken. The minutes of this action shall be published on the Commission's website and shall be available from the Commission upon request.
- E. The guidelines shall apply prospectively. Recommendations provided in the guidelines related to the management of chronic pain and the use of opioids for all stages of pain management shall apply to medical treatment or services occurring on or after October 1, 2016. For purposes of this process,

chronic pain shall be defined by the guidelines. Recommendations provided in the guidelines related to all other body parts and conditions shall apply to medical treatment or services occurring on or after October 1, 2018.

- F. This Article applies to all claims filed with the Commission.
- G. This Article only applies to medical treatment and services for body parts and conditions that have been accepted as compensable.
- H. The guidelines are to be used as a tool to support clinical decision making and quality health care delivery to injured employees. The guidelines set forth care that is generally considered reasonable and are presumed correct if the guidelines provide recommendations related to the requested treatment or service. This is a rebuttable presumption and reasonable medical care may include deviations from the guidelines. To support a request to deviate from the guidelines, the provider must produce documentation and justification that demonstrates by a preponderance of credible medical evidence a medical basis for departing from the guidelines. Credible medical evidence may include clinical expertise and judgment.
- I. The Commission shall provide administrative review and oversight of this Article.

Historical Note

New Section made by final rulemaking at 22 A.A.R. 1730, effective October 1, 2016 (Supp. 16-2). Amended by final rulemaking at 24 A.A.R. 2069, effective October 1, 2018 (Supp. 18-3).

R20-5-1302. Definitions

In this Article and R20-5-106(A)(12), unless the context otherwise requires:

“Act” means the Arizona Workers' Compensation Act, A.R.S. Title 23, Chapter 6.

“Active Practice” means performing patient care for a minimum of eight hours per week in one of the five preceding years.

“Administrative Law Judge” or “ALJ” means a hearing officer appointed under A.R.S. § 23-108.02.

“Administrative Review” means a process that includes a peer review for preauthorization of a request for medical treatment or services conducted pursuant to R20-5-1311. The administrative review process will be managed by the Medical Resource Office (MRO) at the Industrial Commission of Arizona.

“American Board of Medical Specialties” means the organization that develops a uniform system for specialty boards to administer examinations for certification of physicians within specific medicine specialties.

“American Osteopathic Association” means the organization that develops a uniform system for specialty boards to administer examinations for certification of osteopathic physicians within specific osteopathic medicine specialties.

“Applicability” means the body parts and medical conditions that are covered under this Article and authorized by the Commission under R20-5-1301(B) and (C).

“Claim” means the workers' compensation claim filed by the injured employee under the Act.

“Contractor” means an independent peer review organization accredited by URAC.