

ACOEM Practice Guidelines Orientation Session

January 22, 2004
Marriott Los Angeles Airport

Sponsored by
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
State of California Division of Workers' Compensation
State of California Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation
California Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi

Co-sponsored by
California Academy of Family Physicians
Western Occupational and Environmental Medical Association

This December, ACOEM releases the 2nd edition of its *Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines: Evaluation and Management of Common Health Problems and Functional Recovery in Workers*. Developed by the ACOEM Practice Guidelines Committee, the Guidelines are the “gold standard” in effective occupational medical practice, presenting essential consensus- and evidence-based information and providing step-by-step guidelines for the diagnosis, evaluation and management of injured workers.

For Californians, the Guidelines have special significance as State law (AB 227 and SB 228) now stipulates that the ACOEM Practice Guidelines shall be “presumptively correct on the issue of extent and scope of medical treatment.” In response, ACOEM has developed this Guidelines Orientation Session to assist you in understanding the Guidelines and to provide a forum for discussion of how they may be implemented under the new California law.

Date/Location The Orientation will be held Thursday, January 22, from 9:00am to 3:30pm, at the Marriott Los Angeles Airport, 5855 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045; phone: 310/641-5700. Special room rates are available by contacting the hotel directly to make reservations.

Purpose This day-long orientation will provide attendees with a clinical overview of the Guidelines and, in a series of general and breakout sessions, participants will have the opportunity to discuss implementation issues of interest to physicians, other health professionals, administrators, attorneys, case managers, and claims adjudicators.

Speakers ACOEM members who have substantial expertise in the creation and application of guidelines-based utilization review systems, and others who are integral to the development and implementation of policy governing workers' compensation, will make up the faculty. Guest speakers will include California Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi who will discuss the impact of the ACOEM Practice Guidelines in reducing medical costs in the workers' compensation system; Christine Baker, Executive Officer, State of California Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation, who will talk about the policy

decisions behind the Guidelines acceptance and their role in utilization review tools; Larry White, Senior Staff Counsel, State of California Department of Insurance, who will review the impact of the ACOEM Guidelines on requirements for claims adjusters; and Dick Gannon (invited), Administrative Director, Division of Workers' Compensation, who will discuss the role of the Guidelines in streamlining and standardizing the processing of workers' compensation claims.

Who Should Attend Physicians and other health professionals who have regular dealings with workers' compensation cases in California, insurance claims adjusters, third party administrator companies, case management nurses, attorneys, utilization review companies; and all others who have responsibility for/involvement in workers' compensation.

How to Register The Orientation Session is open to the first 300 registrants. **Because ACOEM anticipates that this event will sell out quickly, on-line registration is strongly encouraged.** Register on line at www.acoem.org or call ACOEM at 847/818-1800, ext. 393 or 391. You may also download the registration form at www.acoem.org and mail or fax it with your payment to ACOEM. **The registration fee is \$195 for ACOEM members; \$245 for non-members.**

How to Order the Guidelines Printed copies of the Guidelines are available from OEM Press for \$175 for ACOEM members/\$199 for non-members. Order on line from www.oempress.com or call 800/533-8046. A limited number of copies will be available for sale on site.

ACOEM Members will also receive substantial discounts on upcoming Guidelines ventures including electronic versions of the Guidelines, additional training courses, and a newsletter – to debut next year – focusing on Guideline questions and providing scientific and legislative updates. You must be an ACOEM member to take advantage of these savings. If you think you may be eligible for membership, call the ACOEM Membership Department at 847/818-1800, ext. 375; or visit www.acoem.org.