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President: Dr Tony Sara **Secretary:** Dr Tom Karplus
In reply please quote:

Dr. Petrina Casey
Director, Health Policy, Prevention & Supervision
State Insurance Regulatory Authority
via consultation@sira.nsw.gov.au

**Re: ASMOF NSW Comments: Health Outcomes Framework for the NSW Workers
Compensation and Motor Accident Injury/Compulsory Third Party Schemes:
Consultation Paper**

This document is replete with good 'motherhood statements' that cannot be questioned. Most statements however are broad and generic with little detail on practical aspects of optimal early management of the injured worker that would provide value-based care.

There is a lack of emphasis on early appropriate medical management and the benefits of return to work at the earliest opportunity, even it is on selected duties and on a part time basis.

Early appropriate medical management:

- a. This should involve assessment by a medical practitioner within 24 hours of any injury that involves time off from work. In most instances this would be the patient's general practitioner, but immediate specialist care may be more appropriate for serious injuries.
- b. General practitioners providing initial care must be encouraged to refer to a relevant specialist such as a Rehabilitation Medicine Physician early in the course of management.
- c. General practitioners and specialist physicians should be required to indicate the prognosis including a likely return to work date within 2 weeks of assuming care.

Early return to work:

- a. The benefits of an injured worker being at the workplace on selected work within their capability rather than remaining off work awaiting a full recovery are well recognised.
- b. Value based care would encourage this aspect of management at all levels including claimants, insurers, health practitioners and employers.

Yours faithfully

for
Dr Tom Karplus

Secretary

Date: 4 September 2020