

Summary of Policy and Procedure Revisions - August 2019 Updates -- Bulletin-19

This Bulletin provides a summary of recent policy revisions.

Entitlement Policies

EN-18, Traumatic Mental Stress

Effective June 19, 2019, the policy was revised to ensure consistency with the amendments to the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act (the Act) to provide presumptive coverage for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which became effective on July 1, 2019.

As a result of the amendments to the Act, the policy was revised as follows:

- Removed all references to both “acute” reaction and “sudden and unexpected” to reflect the new definition of injury. Stress that is a reaction to a traumatic event or events meets the definition of injury. The reaction is no longer required to be acute and the event or events is not required to be sudden and unexpected.
- Changed the policy name from “Mental Stress” to “Traumatic Mental Stress” to clarify that coverage is for stress that is a reaction to a traumatic event or events.
- Added a section on “Presumption for PTSD” to explain its meaning and application.

Other housekeeping revisions include:

- added the American Psychiatric Association (APA) reference for the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) to the “Diagnostic Requirements” section; and
- updated the “Merits and Justice” reference.