

Information Bulletin

April 27, 2023

Attention: ASTD providers

Subject: Using an abilities-focused language, updated report templates and reference manual

Abilities Language

Over the past month, we've shared several communications regarding the shift that WorkSafeBC is making toward the use of abilities-focused language. In keeping with this language shift, ASTD providers are being asked to use updated program report templates effective May 1, 2023. The templates will be available for download on our [website](#) on May 1.

The report templates that have been updated for the ASTD program include:

- Activity-Related Soft Tissue Disorder (ASTD) Program Report (83D200)
- Activity-Related Soft Tissue Disorder (ASTD) Medical Assessment (83D203)
- Graduated Return to Work Plan (83D202)
- Job Site Visit Report (83D201)

Notably, we have replaced the phrase "RTW barriers" with "Recovery and RTW factors." When you see the term "Recovery and RTW factors," you are asked to not only focus on the factors that pose challenges to the worker's recovery and return to work, but also to include information regarding facilitators to support their recovery and return to work.

We have also updated our discharge status categories to the following:

- Able to Return to Work
- Able to Return to Work with Considerations
- Other

If a worker has return-to-work considerations upon completion of the ASTD program, you as a provider are asked to share what those considerations are and offer any potential mitigating strategies to support the worker in their continued recovery.

Updated reference manual

We are happy to share with ASTD providers an updated reference manual. The manual includes examples of how to word a worker's function with a focus on their abilities, and it further explains the updated discharge status categories noted above.

Embedded in the reference manual you will also find copies of the updated report templates, with guidelines on how to complete them for the ASTD program.

You will note that we've updated the format of the reference manual, making it more user-friendly. While much of the information within the document remains the same, we ask that you pay particular attention to changes related to the shift to abilities language.

Next steps

We ask that ASTD providers review the updated reference manual, familiarize themselves with the updated report templates, and begin using the new templates as of May 1, 2023.

Providers are asked to ensure their communication with all involved stakeholders is abilities focused. This will serve to support the worker, employer, and WorkSafeBC officer to best move forward toward recovery and return to work.

We appreciate your efforts to remain up to date on the information we have provided. Thank you for your continued support in the treatment of our injured workers. Should you have any questions, please reach out to the Health Care Programs team supporting the ASTD program.

Contact us

Shared Email at ASTD@worksafebc.com

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