

Utilization & Treatment Guidelines update

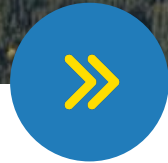
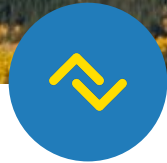
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Montana Department of
LABOR & INDUSTRY

Outline



Provide a brief historical perspective on the Guidelines program.
Briefly review Colorado's Medical Treatment Guideline development process.
Medical Provider Group review process

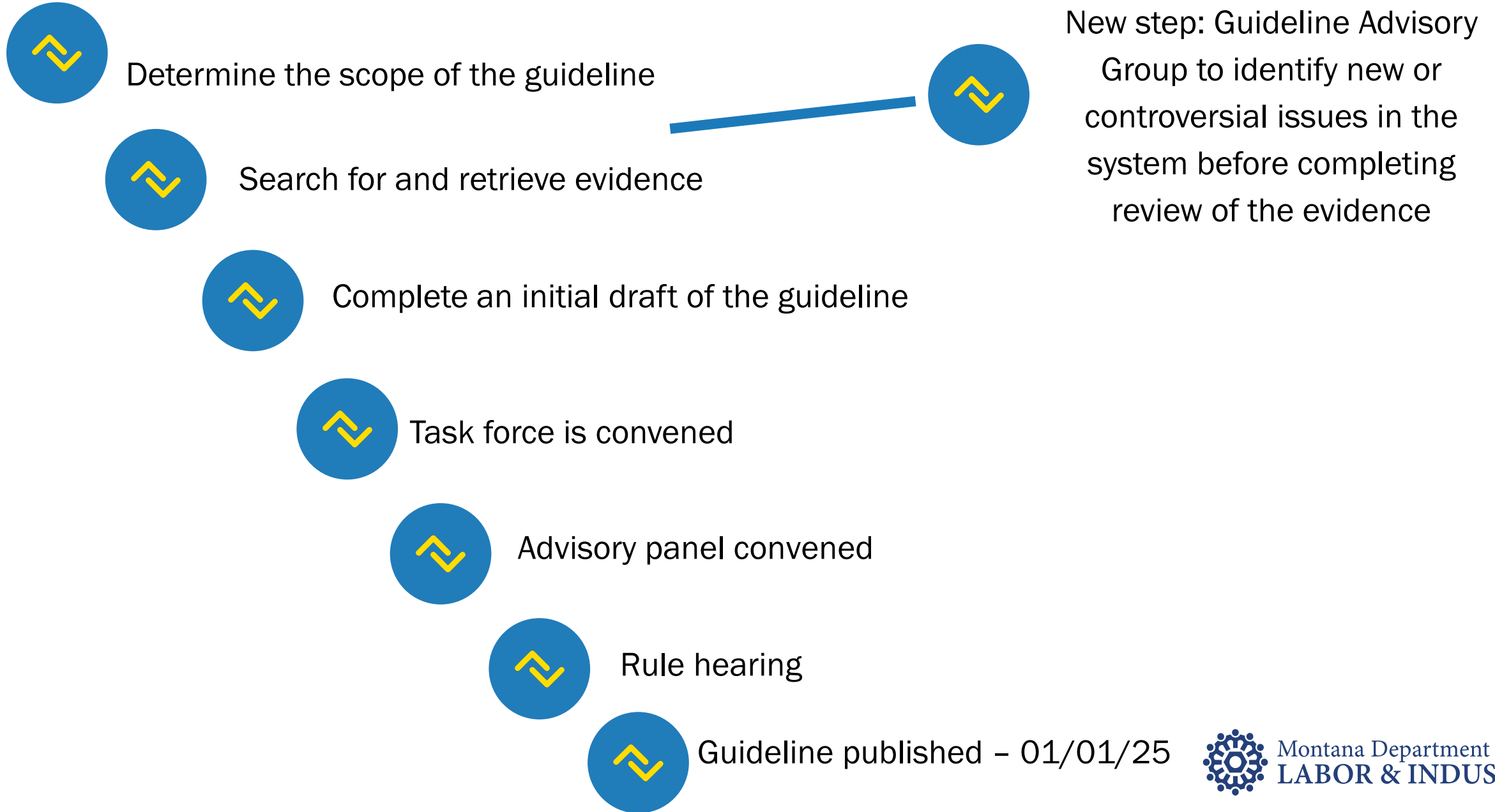


Utilization & Treatment Guidelines



The 2011 Montana legislature passed Montana Code Annotated 39-71-704, requiring that “the department, in consultation with health care providers with relevant experience and education, shall provide for an annual review of the evidence-based utilization and treatment guidelines to consider amendments or changes to the guidelines.”

Process Overview



Goals with Recent Colorado Updates

General formatting update

Integrate General Guideline Principles into the guideline content

- Highlight functional improvement
- Emphasize active over passive therapies

Focus the Guideline content

Make it easier for providers to use the guidelines

Improve application of recommendations



Shoulder Injury Guideline

Made recommendations actionable and the main focus of the content

- Defined and used “acceptable” for treatments
- Removed ambiguity
- Continued to remove education
- No evidence statements mixed in



DLI Internal Review

Internally edit to ensure language is consistent with Montana statute and rule
Incorporate MPG edits from prior drafts for consistency

Montana Medical Provider Group 2025

Montana medical providers reviewed the Shoulder Injury Guideline content and met to discuss proposed updates.

Edits were made to the Guideline.

Associated administrative rule updates are anticipated in September 2025 to adopt the updated Shoulder Injury Guideline.

Updates to other chapters

Clean up several items in the existing guidelines

- Update credential and scope of practice information for behavioral health and psychological providers, as in Low Back Pain and Cervical Spine Injury guidelines.
- Removing the need for a full psychological evaluation prior to initiating cognitive behavioral therapy.
- Removing vague language in the *Positive Patient Response* general guideline principle.



Future Guideline Activity

Educational sessions on Utilization &
Treatment Guideline use

- Claim examiners
- Providers



Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) considerations

24.29.1611 UTILIZATION AND TREATMENT GUIDELINES

Update (1)(a) – to reflect the 9th edition 2025



Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) considerations

- (3) The DLI Medical Director may make interim administrative edits to the Montana Utilization and Treatment Guidelines content in specific circumstances.
 - (a) For content accuracy with respect to provider scope of practice and licensure in Montana.
 - (b) For content accuracy with respect to legislative mandates and statutory or administrative rules.
 - (c) To resolve or remove vague or potentially problematic language.
 - (d) For general corrections, formatting, or style updates.



A serene winter scene featuring a dense forest of evergreen trees heavily laden with snow. The ground is a smooth, undulating expanse of white snow. The sky is a pale, overcast blue with soft, wispy clouds. The overall atmosphere is quiet and cold.

Questions?

Thank you!