

# Workers' Compensation Certificate Protocol for Nurse Practitioners

## 1. Purpose

This protocol states the conditions under which an endorsed nurse practitioner may issue a workers' compensation certificate under section 132(3)(a)(ii) of the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003* for a minor injury.

## 2. Scope

This protocol applies to all registered nurses under the *Nursing Act 1992* or the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* whose annual licence certificate under either Act is endorsed to show authorisation to practice as a nurse practitioner.

## 3. Authorising legislation

*Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003.*

## 4. Conditions

1. A nurse practitioner may only issue a workers' compensation certificate for a minor injury:
  - (a) where assessment of the injury is within the clinical scope of the position in which the nurse practitioner is engaged; and
  - (b) for a total period of incapacity not exceeding 10 calendar days.
2. A nurse practitioner may not issue a workers' compensation certificate for a latent onset injury.
3. Where a worker is not fit to resume their pre-injury duties after a maximum period of 10 calendar days incapacity, a nurse practitioner must immediately refer the worker to a medical practitioner for assessment and any ongoing management.
4. It is not intended that nurse practitioners will be involved in any workplace rehabilitation decisions (such as developing a suitable duties program).

## 5. Glossary of terms

The following terms are defined in Schedule 6 of the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003*.

<i>minor injury</i>	An injury of a person that does not require the hospitalisation of the person as an in-patient to properly treat the injury.
<i>hospitalisation (of a worker)</i>	The admission of the worker in a private hospital or public hospital for medical treatment for the worker's injury.
<i>latent onset injury</i>	An insidious disease.

## 6. Certification

Certified at Brisbane this.....21 APR day  
of .....2010



Michael Reid  
Director General  
Queensland Health



Certified at Brisbane this.....15<sup>th</sup> day  
of .....April..... 2010



Elizabeth Woods  
Chief Executive  
Q-COMP

