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.

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

6. Certification
Certified at Brisbane this 21st day of April 2010

Michael Reid
Director General
Queensland Health

Certified at Brisbane this 1st day of April 2010

Elizabeth Woods
Chief Executive
Q-COMP

Government
Q-COMP
The Workers' Compensation Regulatory Authority