

Medical File Reviews Independent Medical Evaluations

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No conflicts



Medical File Reviews

- Medical necessity, Diagnostic Studies, Procedures, Treatment
- Utilization Review, Hospital Admission, Length of stay
- Post-acute care (SNF, LTACH, ARU)/Home Care
- Medical Legal, Standard of Care, Waste, Fraud and Abuse, INXSS

Independent Medical Evaluation

- Worker's compensation
- Personal injury
- Medical/Legal
- Treatment plan
- Impairment ratings
- Life Care Plans
- Pre/Post FCE
- Life/Health/Disability Insurance

Basis for payment

- Hourly
- Pages (height/number)
- Complexity
- AP Contact
- Turnaround time

The claimant/examinee is not your patient.

- Disclaimer indicating you have not personally examined the claimant (medical file review).
- Inform claimant upon presentation, a doctor-patient relationship will not be established and the assessment is for evaluation purposes only.
- Do not refer to individual as "my patient."
- Do not provide referral or treatment recommendations directly to the patient.
- Do not comment on the care provided by the treating physicians directly to the patient.
- Do not offer to treat the patient.
- Do not teach.
- Comment on condition in/condition out.

You are the expert who is independent of the referral source.

- Insurance company
- Attorney (plaintiff or defense)
- Worker's compensation
- Employer

Answer the question.

- Stay in your lane
- Direct, clear and thoughtful
- Foundation of evidence

**Independent Medical Evaluation
begins upon presentation.**

- When they walk in the door
- Transportation
- Completing registration
- Just before and right after the examination
- Condition in/condition out

Medical File Review format

- Disclaimer
- Synopsis
- Documents reviewed
- AP discussion
- Prior reviews FCE

Medical File Review format

- Attending Physician Statements
- Disability Statements
- Job Descriptions
- Activities of daily living forms
- Social Security Administration ALJ determination

Answer the questions

- Condition causing impairment
- Impairment
- Restriction
- Limitation
- Treatment plan
- Medications

**Independent Medical Evaluation
format**

- Disclaimer
- Synopsis/HPI
- Past Medical//Surgical History
- Treatment History
- Symptom, pain ratings, pain drawings,
- Activities of daily living
- Medications (prescribed by whom)

**Independent Medical Evaluation
format**

- Documents reviewed
- Job Description
- Prior reviews, FCE, Work Hardening Programs
- Physical Examination
- Social Security Administration ALJ determination

Answer the questions

- Medical condition and relationship to accident/injury
- Impairment
- Restriction
- Limitation
- Treatment plan
- Impairment rating
- Prognosis

Impairment

- Alteration of an individual's health status.
- Assessed by medical means and is a medical issue.
- Deviation from normal in a body part or organ system and its functioning.

AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment 4th Edition

Permanent Impairment

- An impairment that has become static or stabilized during a period of time sufficient to allow optimum tissue repair.
- Unlikely to change in spite of further medical or surgical therapy.

AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment 4th Edition

Impairment Percentage

- Represents an informed estimate of the degree to which an individual's capacity to carry out daily activities has been diminished.

AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment 4th Edition

Disability

- Alteration of an individual's capacity to meet personal, social or occupational demands or statutory or regulatory requirements because of an impairment.
- An activity or task the individual cannot accomplish.

AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment 4th Edition

Disability

- An interaction between impairment and external requirements, especially those of a person's occupation.
- The gap between what a person can do, what the person needs or wants to do.

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Impairment is not necessarily a disability

- Loss tip of finger for a piano player versus a banker
- A toe injury for computer programmer versus a ballerina

Impairment rating

- Consensus derived percentage estimate of loss of activity reflecting severity for a given health condition and degree of associated limitations in terms of activities of daily living

AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment 6th Edition

Impairment

- Relationship between impairment, activity limitation and participation are not assumed to be linear or unidirectional.
- An impairment may lead to decrease activities which may lead to restriction.
- A greater impairment may not decrease activities or lead to restriction.






