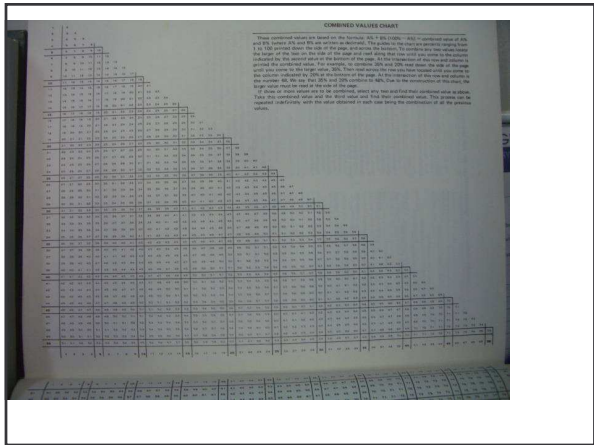


The Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (AMA Guides) Evolved from a series of articles published in JAMA between 1958 and 1970.

Those articles were published under the auspices of ad hoc committees from AMA at the instigation of Texan insurance companies, seeking to evaluate a framework for the emerging personal injury litigation industry post WW2.

There was no input from client or patient advocates without a conflict of interest.

The articles dealt with different organ systems, providing numerical equivalents for grades of medical impairments.



AMA Guides -6 Editions

| I | II | III | IV | V | VI |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1971 | 1984 | 1988 | 1993 | 2000 | 2008 |

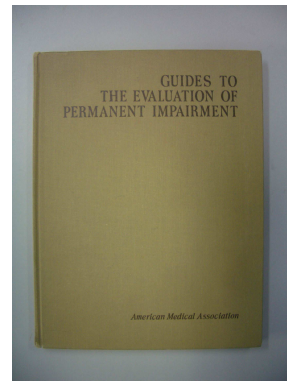
1971 – Ed.1 = 164 pages

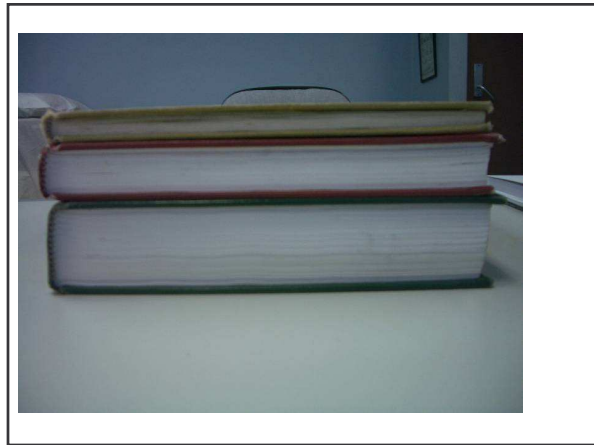
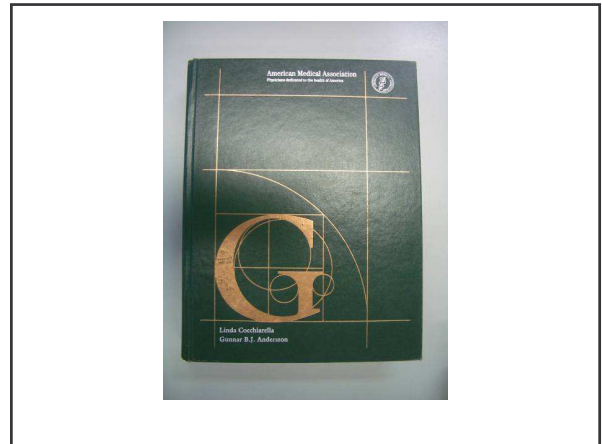
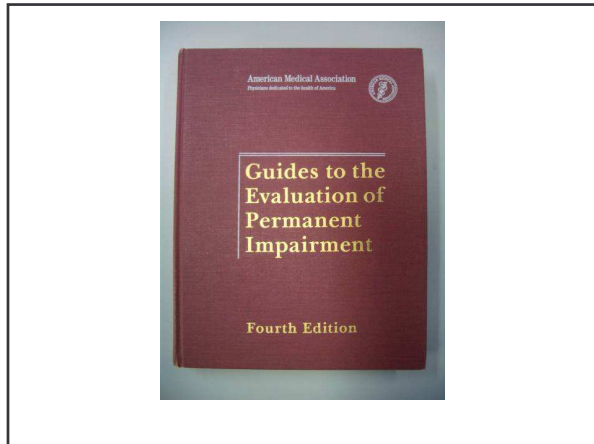
1984 – Ed. 2

1988 – Ed. 3

1993 – Ed. 4 = 339 pages

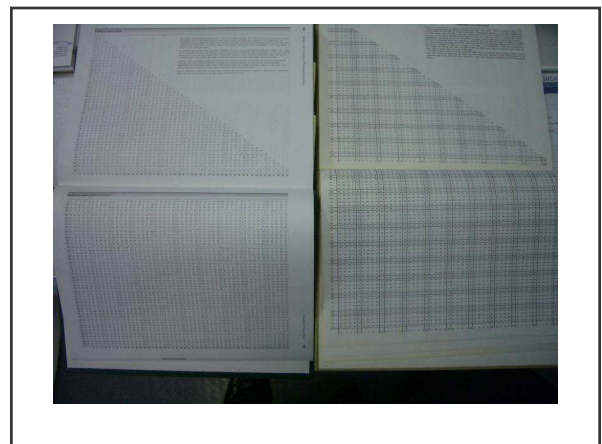
2000 – Ed. 5 = 589 pages





Each edition uses a slightly different methodology to arrive at the numerical conclusion.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p><u>4th Edition</u></p> <p>Methodology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1....DRE 2....Range of motion 3....Surgery effects no benefit. | <p><u>5th Edition</u></p> <p>Methodology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1....DRE 2....Range of motion. 3....Change of definitions & descriptors. |
| <p><u>PROBLEMS</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1....Wrong method used eg. DRE vs ROM 2....Incorrect DRE 3....Wrong value in DRE 4....Errors in measurement | |



From a practising medical perspective the Guides use numbers as legal alchemy: a sacrifice to consistency and predictability.

Criticism is scant.

Review: Flawed Promises: A Critical Evaluation of the American Medical Association's "Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment".

Reviewed Work(s) :Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment by A.Engelberg.

Author(s) of Review: Ellen Smith Pryor

Harvard Law Review, Vol. 103, No.4 (Feb. 1990), pp964 – 976.

Criticism is mis-informed, confusing disability with impairment.

AMA Guides – A Judicial Perspective

Robert J. Smith, Chief
Administrative Law Judge
West Virginia
Workers' Compensation Office of Judges

Current USA Practise

| | |
|------------|---|
| 2007 | |
| Colorado | – 3 rd Edition AMA Guides Highest Value |
| Maine | - 4 th Edition AMA Guides Value down |
| California | - 5 th Edition AMA Guides Value up a little |
| 2008 | 8 U.S. States 1.1.08 Value down |

In Conclusion

**Yesterday's
Truths are
Not today's
Truths.**