

ASSESSMENT of IMPAIRMENT

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THE METHODS

- AMA 4 & M.A.A. GUIDES
- AMA 5 & WORKCOVER GUIDES
- TABLE of MAIMS

APPROVED MEDICAL SPECIALIST

- Appointed to settle disputes between claimant & insurer over W.P.I.

AMA 4

- Assessor determines causation
- Stabilization & WPI
- CARS-Dispute resolution
- >10% Threshold for access to common law

SPINE

- DRE Categories 1 to 8
- DRE 1 & 2
- Radiculopathy

REVIEW PANEL

- Proper Officer-role in accepting appeal
- Three doctors & panel secretary
- Do you reexamine or assess on papers
- Two doctors if reexamined

PREEXISTING IMPAIRMENT

- Clear evidence required

WORKERS COMPENSATION

- Cases referred to AMS have had causation legally determined
- 10% Threshold
- 15% Threshold
- Concept of Stabilization & Maximum Medical Improvement

SPINE in WCC

- DRE 1- 5
- Activities of daily living
- Modifiers
- Paraplegia assessed separately to DRE Categories (Cf. AMA4)

PREEXISTING CONDITION

- 10% Rule

ANOMALIES

- Thresholds high & often difficult to achieve in a genuine claim
- No allowance for medical discretion
- Impairment Vs Disability
- No closure-the tail

FEMORAL FRACTURE

- Perfect result & not so perfect result & consequences for your compensation

FINAL MESSAGE

- MEASURES IMPAIRMENT NOT DISABILITY
- AMA 6 is around the corner