

# THE IME PROCESS

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# The Independent Medical Examination is a central component of the workers' compensation system:

- Causation;
- Return to work;
- Evaluating impairments;
- Proposed treatment plans;
- Opioids and mental health; and
- 3<sup>rd</sup> opinion

The need for an opinion is always present.

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# Purpose of an IME

- Answers a question
- Responds to an opinion
  - a claimant wants something...

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# Purpose: what triggers the need for an IME

- Filing of issues
- Formal request
- Preparing for litigation

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# Process

- Requested by adjuster
- Use of Network
  - location
  - specialty
  - history/familiarity

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# IME Report

- History
- Examination
- Pre-Existing History
- Opinions/Conclusions
- Reasonable degree of medical certainty

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# IME Opinions/Conclusions

- Permanency, including apportionment if appropriate
  - The “Five Factors”
  - Information v. numeral rating
- Work status
- Treatment recommendations

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# Opinions/Conclusions (continued)

- Causation
  - Other causes?
  - Specific answers?
- Maximum Medical Improvement

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# IME Guidelines

- Regulations
- Statute
  - Permanency ratings
- IME No-Show

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# Addendums

- Need
- Process

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# Questions?

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