

Quick Reference for Independent Medical Evaluations

What is an Independent Medical Evaluation (IME)?

Workforce Safety & Insurance (WSI) requests an IME to assist in the management of your claim. Neutral, third-party vendors find the most qualified provider to evaluate your work injury. The role of this IME provider is to assess your work injury and/or existing treatment plan. The IME provider does not deliver medical treatment or discuss the management of your claim.

Purpose of an IME

The purpose of an IME is to obtain a neutral medical opinion through a medical evaluation and record review. WSI may ask an IME provider for an opinion on the following:

- Cause of the injury or condition
- Diagnosis of the injury or condition
- Impact of a pre-existing medical condition
- Appropriateness of the existing treatment plan
- Determination of maximum medical improvement
- Determination of a significant change in medical condition

Where will the IME take place?

The IME may take place in a variety of settings including a hospital, medical clinic, or chiropractic office. WSI will send you a letter notifying you of the facility address where the IME will take place.

Will I have to travel?

WSI will attempt to schedule the IME as close to your residence as possible; however, travel may be necessary. If so, WSI will reimburse your expenses for attending the IME based on the current state rates at the time of the travel.

What happens if I cannot attend the IME?

You should contact WSI immediately if a conflict arises and you cannot attend the IME. Attendance of an IME is mandatory. Failure to attend may result in your benefits being suspended.

What do I need to bring?

You should bring a photo ID and a list of all current medication.

May a friend or relative accompany me?

Yes. You may have a friend or relative attend the appointment to offer support. The IME provider may ask them to step outside during the evaluation though.

How long will the IME last?

On average, an IME lasts between 15-30 minutes. A more complex injury may require additional time.

What should I expect during an IME?

During an IME, a provider meets with you to discuss and assess your injury. Discussion may cover:

- Your physical condition, currently and prior to the injury
- Employment history
- Past and current medical treatment

The IME provider may also perform standard diagnostic tests. These tests help the IME provider determine the cause of your symptoms. The IME provider will not offer treatment advice or discuss the management of your claim.

May I ask questions during the exam?

Yes. However, the IME provider will not offer a treatment plan or second opinion.

What happens after an IME?

The IME provider reviews the evaluation results along with your medical records, then completes a report for WSI. This report outlines the medical findings and answers any questions WSI asked.

Next, WSI will send a copy of the report to your primary treating provider for review. Once your primary treating provider submits their opinion, WSI reviews both the IME report and your provider's opinion to make a decision on your claim.

How do I know the IME will be fair?

The role of the IME provider is to review the injury and provide an impartial medical opinion. WSI does not employ IME providers.

Will I receive a copy of the IME report?

You may request a copy from WSI.