

Quick Reference for Independent Medical Evaluations



What is an Independent Medical Evaluation (IME)?

An IME is a medical exam requested by Workforce Safety & Insurance (WSI) to assist in the management of your claim. WSI works with neutral, third-party vendors to find the most qualified provider to evaluate your work injury. The role of the IME provider is to assess a variety of aspects of your work injury and not to deliver medical treatment.

Purpose of an IME

The purpose of the IME is to obtain a neutral medical opinion through a medical exam and record review. Common aspects that WSI asks the IME provider for an opinion on may include the following:

- Causation of the injury or condition
- Diagnosis of the injury or condition
- Appropriateness of the existing treatment plan
- Impact of a pre-existing medical condition
- Whether maximum medical improvement has been reached
- Whether there has been a significant change in medical condition

What to Expect During the IME

During the IME, the provider meets with you to discuss your injury. Common topics discussed include, but are not limited to, your physical condition prior to the injury, your current physical condition, employment history leading up to the injury, and past and current medical treatment. The IME provider may ask you to perform standard diagnostic tests. These tests help the IME provider assess the cause of your symptoms. The IME provider will not offer treatment advice nor discuss the management of your claim.

What Happens After the IME

The IME provider reviews the results of the IME and your medical records, and then completes a report. The report outlines the medical findings and answers the questions asked by WSI. WSI sends a copy of the report to your treating physician for a medical opinion. Once WSI receives your treating provider's opinion, WSI reviews both the IME report and the treating provider's opinion in order to make a decision on your claim.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where will the IME take place? The IME may take place in a variety of settings including, but not limited to, a hospital, medical clinic, or chiropractic office. WSI will send you a letter to notify you of the facility address where the IME will take place.

Will I have to travel for the IME? WSI will attempt to schedule the IME as close to your residence as possible; however, travel may be required. If travel is required, WSI will reimburse your expenses for attending the IME based on North Dakota state rates.

What items do I need to bring to the IME? You should bring a photo ID and a list of all current medications.

Am I able to have a friend or relative attend the appointment with me? Yes. You may have a friend or relative attend the appointment to offer support. The IME provider may ask for private time during the examination.

May I ask questions of the IME provider? Yes. However, the IME provider will not offer a treatment plan or second opinion during the exam.

How long will the IME last? On average, an IME lasts between 15-30 minutes. However, some complex injuries require more time.

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 required. Failure to attend may result in a suspension of your benefits.

How do I know that the IME will be fair? The role of the IME provider is to review the injury and provide an objective and impartial medical opinion. WSI does not employ IME providers.

Will I receive a copy of the IME report? You may request a copy of the IME report from WSI.