

PERMANENT MEDICAL IMPAIRMENT ASSESSMENT



WSCC

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What is a Permanent Medical Impairment (PMI) Assessment?



Some work injuries result in a permanent loss of function to areas of the body affected by an injury. This loss of function may continue even after complete and appropriate medical treatment. This is called a Permanent Medical Impairment (PMI).

A PMI assessment is a medical examination to determine and measure the extent of the permanent impairment. The assessment begins with a complete review of the claim file and an update provided by the worker.

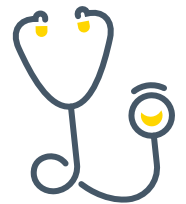
The review is followed by a thorough physical examination of the injury and any areas that may be affected by the injury.

1. WHO EXAMINES ME?

The PMI examination is conducted by the WSCC Medical Advisor (or for workers in other provinces, WCB certified Medical Examiners). The examiners are physicians trained to do impairment evaluations. WSCC Medical Advisors are certified members of the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners (ABIME).

2. WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE ASSESSMENT?

A Medical Advisor gathers general background information from you about your health and the nature of your injury. After the background information is collected, the Medical Advisor conducts a thorough physical exam in relation to your injury and any areas affected by it using tests for motion, strength, and sensation. These tests are not strenuous and are performed in such a way as to avoid discomfort as much as possible.



It is important for the Medical Advisor to conduct as thorough a physical exam as medically appropriate for an accurate assessment. If it is determined that there is a permanent impairment as the result of the compensable workplace injury, an Impairment Rating is assigned and used to calculate benefits.

If you have questions specific to your claim, please be sure to call or make an appointment with your Case Manager, who will be happy to assist you.



3. HOW LONG WILL THE ASSESSMENT TAKE?

The length of the assessment depends on the time it takes to collect your background information and thoroughly examine your injury. This usually takes between 20 and 60 minutes.

4. WHAT SHOULD I PREPARE?

This depends on the nature of your injury. For most assessments, it is recommended that you bring or wear loose-fitting clothing.

Shorts are recommended for an examination of an injury affecting the lower body or back.

5. CAN I BRING SOMEONE WITH ME?

Yes, you may choose someone close to you to be present during the assessment, if both you and the Medical Advisor give permission. There are times when a translator may be required. This can be a family member or close friend or it may be one assigned to you through the WSCC or the WCB where you reside.



6. WILL I SEE THE RESULTS?

Yes, the results of the PMI assessment become part of your WSCC claim file. You may request to see your WSCC claim file or have a copy of it sent to another person, such as your doctor. Please talk to your Case Manager if this is something that you would like to request.

7. CAN I BE REASSESSED?

Yes, if your injury worsens you may be eligible to be reassessed. Before a reassessment is conducted, the WSCC requires medical documentation from your doctor explaining the changes in your injury since the initial assessment for your PMI.

8. DO I HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN A PMI ASSESSMENT?

You may refuse a PMI assessment, but the WSCC will then be unable to determine if you are entitled to certain WSCC benefits and services. Your full cooperation is required for the best outcome.

9. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER?

Following your PMI assessment, the results are sent to your Case Manager.

If you have a PMI, your claim file is transferred to the Pensions Specialist for further administration. The Pension Specialist reviews the PMI rating and calculates your pension benefits. These benefits are explained in a letter sent to you from the Pensions Department. Once your file is transferred and your pension is calculated, a Pensions Specialist can explain the available options.

10. WILL TRAVEL EXPENSES AND OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS BE PAID?

If determined to be necessary, travel and accommodation expenses are paid by WSCC. If you are unsure what expenses will be covered, please contact your Case Manager to discuss this prior to booking any travel.

11. WILL WSCC PAY FOR MY TIME AWAY FROM WORK TO ATTEND?



If time is lost from work to attend the assessment, the WSCC pays benefits for the time missed.

12. WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PMI ASSESSMENTS?

If you have any further questions about your PMI assessment, contact your Adjudicator or Case Manager directly. Please have your claim number handy.

