

# IME and Impairment Rating Reports

The adjudication of the IME or impairment rating report is one of the most important tasks in your claim management workload.

IME examiners must send the report to the department or the self-insured employer within 14 days of the exam. When additional tests are ordered by the examiner the report is due within 14 days after the results are received.



There is no time limit requirement for an impairment rating conducted by the attending physician or a consultant. You can suggest a due date in your letter to the provider.

## Reviewing the Exam Report

Review the report within 30 – 60 days after you receive it to meet best practices standards. Before acting on the report, review it carefully and compare it with the questions asked about the worker's condition. Look for errors in fact or detail (e.g., right-left errors). If the questions were not fully answered, you may ask correction before you accept the report. Once you accept the report you will need to request an addendum to answer other questions. Corrections or addendums must be made in writing.

Many IME examiners and firms feel an addendum requested after 60 days is an untimely request. Many IME examiners won't respond to untimely requests. Examiners don't like to answer questions about the worker's medical condition or job analysis because their medical situation may have changed. Sometimes the examiner will review the claim file a second time and charge additional fees.

## Releasing the Exam Report

You must review the report before forwarding it to interested parties. The exam report is often the first notification to the department that a worker has a sexually transmitted disease (STD) or another confidential medical condition. A special release of information from the worker may be needed when confidential medical information is mentioned in the IME report.

## Attending Physician Review

It is your responsibility to send the report to the attending provider and the employer. Chiropractors, Physician Assistants, and Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners can review the report, however, they are not qualified to rate permanent impairment. Since they cannot rate, an objection to the rating should be reviewed with careful attention to any medical issues that still need to be resolved.

Please note that only Chiropractic Consultants may rate or become approved examiners per WAC 296-23-312.