



**2. Out of state IMEs must be scheduled with department approved examiners.**

The adjudicator may ask the attending provider to arrange a consultation if:

- The worker is physically unable to return to Washington State, and
- There is no department approved specialist located near the worker.

**NOTE:** The consulting provider must have a department provider number.

**NOTE:** Out of state chiropractors can't perform impairment ratings.

**3. Adjudicators may require a worker living in another country return to the United States for an IME.**

The adjudicator may authorize a consultation in the country where the worker resides.

**4. State Fund adjudicators may request specific doctors ONLY in certain situations.**

State Fund adjudicators may request specific doctors only in the following situations:

- Reopening requests (when returning the worker to the closing examiner).
- Repeat examinations (when the doctor examined worker before).
- When the claim involves complex medical or legal issues making it appropriate for the adjudicator to request specific doctors.

**5. The department or self-insured employer must provide a written notice of the IME appointment to both the worker and the worker's representative.**

The notice must:

- Be sent at least 14 calendar days but not more than 60 days prior to appointment.
- Include the appointment time, date, and place.
- Copies must be sent to all claim parties.

**NOTE:** The purpose of the IME needs to be documented in the claim file, such as, to rate permanent partial disability, clarify treatment recommendations, or resolve a difference of medical opinions, etc.

**Exceptions:**

- 5a. The worker or the worker's representative may agree to waive the 14 day notice for initial IME scheduling or reschedules. The worker's agreement to waive must be documented in the file.
- 5b. IMEs for incarcerated workers are confidential and no appointment notice is sent.

**6. Department staff will comply with applicable federal and state civil rights laws.**

The department will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access for any person with a disability whether due to a work injury, pre-existing condition or other health condition.

Examples of reasonable accommodation include but are not limited to:

- Alternative communication methods, including reprinting and reformatting of information needed to administer industrial insurance benefits, such as Telephone Relay Services and Braille materials.
- Providing specialized transportation or location for independent medical examinations to accommodate physical mobility limitations.
- Ensuring workers with diabetes are allowed regularly scheduled breaks during extended examinations.

**7. The department provides meaningful access to workers with limited English proficiency by offering language access services at no cost.**

For further information about this or other workers' compensation policies, you may contact the Insurance Services' policy program at (360) 902-5079.