

EVALUATION OF PERMANENT PARTIAL IMPAIRMENT **FOR INDIANA WORKER'S COMPENSATION CASES**

Medical providers may use whichever edition of the AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment they think most appropriate to the individual case when evaluating the permanent impairment of an injured worker. For example, if the 6th Edition would preclude recovery for an impairment, an earlier edition should be consulted.

Impairment ratings should be to the most specific body part affected. Exceptions are when multiple body parts are involved. Translating a simple finger injury to the upper extremity or the body as a whole is not necessary, as the Worker's Compensation Board per IC 22-3-3-10 (i) will only approve payment for the impairment of the finger.

The Board will no longer apply the Multi-Digit Calculation which is not required by current statutes. If multiple digits are impaired a hand rating will be approved.

A wrist injury will be considered an impairment of the upper extremity but if use of the hand is also affected, there should be a hand rating as well and these will be combined. If there are impairments to various parts of a limb, such as a left elbow and left wrist, the Board will approve payment for the combined rating to the left upper extremity.

Upper and lower extremity impairments will no longer be separated into above or below the joint except in the case of amputations, per IC 22-3-3-10 (i)(1).

Ankle impairments should be rated using the ankle/foot conversion table, found in the 5th and 6th editions of the AMA Guidelines.

Partial amputations of hands and feet require completion of the hand or foot chart delineating the exact location of the loss by separation. This should be submitted along with the PPI report.

When, in addition to a loss by separation of one or more digits, use of the hand is affected and a hand rating is given by the physician, the Board will add on the value of the digit loss once instead of doubling it per IC

22-3-3-10 (i)(2) because this is already factored into the rating. A similar practice will be followed with feet.

Head, neck, shoulder, back, hip, hernias, and any bilateral injury are currently rated to the whole person. Additionally, if two different body parts are injured in the same accident, these are rated individually and then to the whole person. Burn and other skin impairments are written to the whole body because skin is an organ, and will now also be approved for payment this way.
change in the statute.