



October 2009

# THE IC *MediScene*

Ohio | Industrial Commission

Keeping You Up-to-Date with the Industrial Commission

## Doctor Can you Spare a Time

We realize that many of our specialist examiners have extremely busy clinical practices. This may make it difficult to "work in" an impairment evaluation for the Industrial Commission. We have found that in many cases we are unable to schedule examinations with your office because there are no slots available within a reasonable time frame for the parties involved in the claim.

However, some of our specialists have been successful in not letting these opportunities pass by modifying the way they schedule with the IC.



This is how it works. Let's say you're interested in only one or two examinations a month. You can prearrange with our schedulers (and with the help of your staff) to block a designated appointment slot once every two weeks for an Industrial Commission examination, perhaps at the end of the day, for the next six months. We are obligated to provide two weeks' notice to the injured worker for an examination. So, if you don't hear from us two weeks prior to the appointment time, your staff can "release it" to be used for a work in appointment or a patient on your waiting list.

Please let us know if this might work for you. Email or call [wmullins@ic.state.oh.us](mailto:wmullins@ic.state.oh.us) (614) 644-9234 to provide a contact person in your office and we will have our schedulers help make the arrangements.

## What's New: Credentialing Clarifications

In the July, 2009 issue of The IC MediScene, recent revisions in the Industrial Commission prerequisites to appointment to the Medical Specialist Panel were presented.

Thanks to input from interested readers, we understand that further clarification is necessary. The bullets below will summarize the primary items of interest:

- Doctors of Osteopathy require board certification in their specialty by either the American Osteopathic Association or the American Board of Medical Specialties.
- Specialists examining dental conditions may be Doctors of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) or board certified in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.
- Specialists are now required to complete eight hours of continuing education credits specific to impairment evaluation over the course of five years. This will first be reviewed in 2014, at the time of application for reappointment. These may include AMA Categories I or II or equivalent credits (go to [ama-assn.org](http://ama-assn.org), click continuing medical education, click frequently asked questions to find

out more about learning opportunities). Please be prepared to provide documentation of your activities.

- The Industrial Commission will not be your primary source of continuing education relevant to impairment evaluation, though we will be happy to help you explore resources. You are encouraged to seek out your own learning opportunities.
- Archived editions of MediScene, along with review questions are now available at [ohioic.com](http://ohioic.com).
- Some specialists who examine for the Industrial Commission on an infrequent basis (less than ten times a year) are considered appointed on a temporary basis, and are not subject to the continuing education requirement.

We hope this helps to clarify any questions you might have had about our credentialing process. If you would like to discuss this information in more detail please contact us at [twelsh@ic.state.oh.us](mailto:twelsh@ic.state.oh.us) (614)466-1266 or [wmullins@ic.state.oh.us](mailto:wmullins@ic.state.oh.us) (614)644-9234.

## Did You See What I Saw?

Please consider taking the time when preparing your report to indicate that you reviewed the records supplied to you at the time of the examination. It is also appropriate in many cases to summarize the pertinent elements of some reports used in the formulation of your opinions. This is not only basic to the preparation of a sound report (AMA Guides, Fifth Edition, section 2.6, page 21), but also might help you avoid the need for an addendum, interrogatory, or deposition by simply indicating "what you saw."

## Did you Know?

The Industrial Commission provider fee schedule, last updated in 1998, has been revised and can be found in our Medical Examination Manual at [ohioic.com](http://ohioic.com).

Continuing education review questions MediScene Oct. 09

1. The Industrial Commission fee schedule
  - A. Is a flat fee system, regardless of the complexity of the examination.
  - B. Is based on the BWC fee schedule.
  - C. Is found in the Medical Examination Manual at [ohioic.com](http://ohioic.com), and includes updates for no shows, file reviews, interrogatories, and depositions.
  - D. Is based on how many *claims* are involved in the application for permanent total disability.
2. Which statement is true regarding Industrial Commission credentialing?
  - A. Doctors of Osteopathy must be board certified by the American Osteopathic Association.
  - B. Specialists must document eight hours of AMA category I hours of continuing education over five years, specific to impairment evaluation, at the time of application or reapplication to the Industrial Commission Medical Specialist Panel.
  - C. The Industrial Commission will be your primary source of continuing education.
  - D. The Industrial Commission Medical Section will provide you with resources for continued education relevant to impairment evaluation.
3. Which statement is true regarding scheduling of Industrial Commission medical examinations?
  - A. The Industrial Commission is obligated to provide two weeks' notice to injured workers for the examination.
  - B. The Industrial Commission examination scheduling staff will work with your office to prearrange times to be held for potential examinations months in advance.
  - C. Guidelines for examination scheduling are driven by the Industrial Commission mission, which states we will be impartial and expeditious.
  - D. All of the above.
4. *AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, Fifth Edition*, (section 2.6)
  - A. Instructs physicians to include a detailed list of prior evaluations in their reports.
  - B. Instructs physicians to list diagnostic study results.
  - C. Instructs physicians to discuss the medical basis for determining whether the person is MMI.
  - D. Instructs physicians to explain any conclusion about the need for restrictions or accommodations for standard activities of daily living or complex activities such as work.
  - E. All of the above.

(Answers: 1. C.; 2. D.; 3. D.; 4. E.)