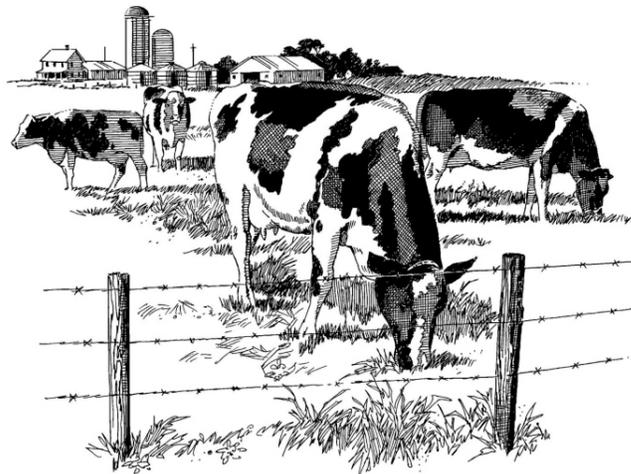


Watch Your Step

Preparing an Industrial Commission Permanent Total Disability examination report is a complex process. Like when walking through a cow pasture, it helps to be mindful of where one steps. Here are some tips to help you navigate:

- 1. Read the referral questions carefully.** There was a time when you could expect the same questions for each examination. Times have changed. The questions now might vary from exam to exam. If you use a template for reporting, make sure to insert the appropriate questions based on the referral letter you receive.
- 2. Answer the questions completely.** As discussed here before, it is not adequate in response to the question of physical or mental limitations to simply check a box or state an injured worker is incapable of work without further explanation. The question asks the examiner to provide a discussion of physical or mental limitations due to the allowed conditions. For a more detailed description of how to do this, check out the April 2012 *MediScene* newsletter at www.ohioic.com.
- 3. List all of the allowed conditions at the outset of your report.** It is important to indicate at the beginning of your



report that you are aware of all of the allowed conditions, as reported on the Statement of Facts. You will find these in your examination packet.

- 4. Be sure to list all of the conditions you were asked to consider when providing your opinion.** You will be asked to consider allowed conditions within your specialty. These must all be accounted for when rendering your opinion.
- 5. For physical conditions, provide a description of the Injured Worker's pain complaints and activities of daily living.** *AMA Guides, 5th Edition*, requires the examiner to include sections that describe the impact of impairment related to the allowed conditions on the injured worker's activities of daily living, and to describe the injured worker's pain complaints (including location, character, intensity, associated symptoms, and aggravating and alleviating factors). These items will provide a more complete clinical picture of the injured worker. (See *AMA Guides, 5th Edition*, page 4, Table 1-2, and page 576, Table 18-4.)
- 6. For spine conditions, *AMA Guides, 5th Edition*** requires the examiner to provide a discussion of which method was used (that is, DRE versus ROM), why, and how it was applied. (See *AMA Guides, 5th Edition*, Section 15.2, page 379.)

Did you Know?

Examination Templates: Medical Services will provide you with an examination template to help you be certain your report contains all of the required elements. Contact Kim White at 614-387-4497.

Continuing education review questions MediScene Oct 2012

1. The ROM model for determining impairment in spinal disorders is appropriate in the following situations:
 - A. When the impairment is not caused by injury, the cause is unclear, or the condition is not well-characterized by a DRE description.
 - B. When there is multi-level involvement in one spinal region.
 - C. When there is loss of segment integrity such as with fracture or fusion.
 - D. When there is recurrent radiculopathy or multiple episodes of pathology in the same region.
 - E. All of the above.
2. Examples of activities of daily living that may be impacted by impairment, according to *AMA Guides 5th Edition* include: urinating, defecating, brushing teeth, combing hair, bathing, dressing, eating, writing, typing, seeing, hearing, speaking, standing, sitting, reclining, walking, climbing stairs, hearing, seeing, tactile feeling, tasting, smelling, grasping, lifting, tactile discrimination, riding, flying, driving, orgasm, ejaculation, lubrication, erection, restful nocturnal sleep pattern.
 - A. True
 - B. False
3. Which of the following, according to *AMA Guides 5th Edition*, should not be reported when describing an injured worker's pain complaints?
 - A. Location
 - B. Character
 - C. Associated symptoms
 - D. Aggravating and alleviating factors
 - E. Intensity
 - F. None of the above
4. All allowed conditions should be listed at the beginning of an IC PTD examination.
 - A. True
 - B. False
5. All allowed conditions you were asked to consider should be listed in your opinion.
 - A. True
 - B. False

(Answers: 1. E.; 2. A.; 3. F.; 4. A.; 5. A.)