



# MediScene

Keeping You Up-to-Date with the Industrial Commission's Medical Services

“When you’re having trouble and topping the ball, it means the ground is moving on you.”

Juan “Chi Chi” Rodriguez,  
Professional Golfer

## Taking Your Best Shot

It is our aspiration that all Permanent Total Disability independent medical examination and file review reports received from our specialists contain the essential information requested to assist in adjudication of a claim. We hope all reports are a “hole in one” - free from clerical errors, unambiguous, free of contradictory statements, and present medical opinions which are well-supported and easily understood. Getting there would be good for Ohio’s injured workers and employers by facilitating a more expeditious resolution of the adjudicatory process.



In pursuit of this goal, we recently asked some of the specialists on our panel how we might better communicate our report needs and template standards. We considered if we were to improve dialog on opportunities missed on the back end, it might help alleviate some of the report deficiencies moving forward.

The responses were generally favorable with regard to how we present our report needs to examiners. However, there was one interesting, and, hopefully, constructive suggestion: “Why don’t you tell us the most common deficiencies you are seeing, so we can focus on avoiding them?”

The following is a list of the most common categories and report deficiencies, in order of decreasing frequency, ranging from 58% to 12% of the reports reviewed in January and February of 2024. Note some reports have deficiencies in more than one category.

1. **Question #2 opinion errors** - impairment rating, including the application of the AMA Guides or impairment rating methodology; miscalculations; lack of supportive information in report; omissions of ratings for some allowed conditions.
2. **Miscellaneous errors of fact** - erroneous dates; inaccurate gender pronouns; titles (e.g., use of “claimant” to describe the injured worker).
3. **Errors involving injured worker and claim information** - DOB; DOI; claim number; omissions; name typos.
4. **Allowance errors** - opining on the wrong allowances (e.g., allowances not assigned or outside of one’s scope of practice); misnaming allowances; missing allowances.
5. **Question #3, residual functional capacity opinion** - lack of supporting objective findings; inconsistencies with information in the report; lack of specificity of limitations or abilities; limited explanation or support or rationale for the opinion.
6. **Miscellaneous typos** - misspellings; nonsensical sentences; nonsensical words.

*Continued on page 2.*

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Other types of report deficiencies, with a frequency of less than 10%, included:

1. Stating an opinion in the report not congruent with Ohio law.
2. Insufficient or ambiguous reporting of the injured worker's ability to perform activities of daily living.
3. Documentation of physical examination findings of allowed condition(s) inadequate for application of the AMA Guides.
4. Reporting a Global Assessment of Function (in psychological examinations) not consistent with the estimated percentage of psychological impairment without explaining rationale for the inconsistency.

Similar to improving a golf swing, there's a lot to unpack here. When considering our action steps to address these variations, we thought a "Troubleshooting Guide" might be helpful. In other words, if you find your reports are deficient in a particular area (or areas), use the following guide to find the problem area, review possible causes, and try a likely solution. We hope these will help get your game back on solid ground.

PROBLEM	POSSIBLE CAUSE	LIKELY SOLUTION
Question #2 Error	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improper application of <i>Guides</i></li> <li>2. Inadvertent omissions</li> <li>3. Miscalculations</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss with Medical Services, review Guides, take a refresher course</li> <li>2. Use a proofreader and checklist</li> <li>3. Double check your calculations and use a worksheet</li> </ol>
Factual Errors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inadvertent oversight</li> <li>2. Too much information</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use a proofreader and checklist</li> <li>2. Transcribe less information from the record</li> </ol>
Identification Errors	Inadvertent oversight	Use a proofreader and checklist
Allowance errors	Inadvertent oversight	Use a proofreader and checklist
Question #3 error	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lack of consistency</li> <li>2. Inadequate statement of relevant objective findings to support opinion of residual functional capacity</li> </ol>	Consult "checkpoints for consistency" at <a href="https://www.ic.ohio.gov/for-examiners/template-pdfs/musculoskeletal-template-instructions.pdf">https://www.ic.ohio.gov/for-examiners/template-pdfs/musculoskeletal-template-instructions.pdf</a> , page 6
Miscellaneous typos	Inadvertent oversight	Use a proofreader
Other	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unfamiliarity with Guides</li> <li>2. Unfamiliarity with IC report requirements</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss with Medical Services, review Guides, take a refresher course</li> <li>2. Use IC report templates and guides at <a href="https://www.ic.ohio.gov/for-examiners/examiners.html">https://www.ic.ohio.gov/for-examiners/examiners.html</a></li> <li>3. Explore other IC resources at <a href="https://www.ic.ohio.gov/for-examiners/examiners.html">https://www.ic.ohio.gov/for-examiners/examiners.html</a></li> </ol>

### More on Chi Chi:

- Born in Puerto Rico in 1935.
- When seven, he helped support his family by hauling water on a sugar plantation, until he found out he could make more as a caddie at a nearby golf course.
- He taught himself how to play by making a "club" from a guava branch, and using a metal can as a "ball". By age nine he was proficient at golf, by age twelve he shot a five-under par 67 for 18 holes. He joined the United States Army at age 19.
- He joined the PGA tour at age 25, won his first of eight tour victories at age 28, and went on later in life to win 22 PGA Senior tournaments. Though only 5'7" and 150 lbs., he could hit a driver as far as most other players on the tour.
- Light-hearted, he is credited with several whimsical quotes. However, he is best recognized for his routine on the putting green after making an eagle or birdie, which he called the "toreador dance". Using his putter as "sword" he would ceremoniously finish by "slaying" his ball, then wipe his "sword" and return it to its sheath.

# MediScene Review Questions

## DIRECTIONS AND SUBMISSION

After reviewing the material in the newsletter, please fill in your name, date, time spent on the activity, and your answers to the review questions.

When completed, you may print this page and fax it to 614-466-1051, attention Medical Services, subject "MediScene Review Questions", to be placed in your file and held for your future reapplication. Alternatively, you may save your completed form to your computer by choosing "Print", and then choose "Destination" as "Save to PDF". Please email the saved document as an attachment to [medical.services@ic.ohio.gov](mailto:medical.services@ic.ohio.gov), subject line "MediScene Review Questions".

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time Spent on CME Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Maximum 30 minutes)

## MEDISCENE REVIEW QUESTIONS, MAY 2024

- Most IC PTD report deficiencies are clerical in nature, and could be avoided by proofreading.
  - ☐ A. True
  - ☐ B. False
- Which of the following are serious knowledge-based report deficiencies?
  - ☐ A. Misapplication of the *Guides*.
  - ☐ B. Statement of opinions not congruent with Ohio law.
  - ☐ C. Miscalculation of percentage impairment.
  - ☐ D. A and B.
  - ☐ E. All of the above.
- The Industrial Commission public website, [ic.ohio.gov](http://ic.ohio.gov), has a section for examiners which:
  - ☐ A. is awesome.
  - ☐ B. is a "chip-shot" to navigate.
  - ☐ C. contains archived newsletters in a searchable PDF format.
  - ☐ D. includes the *Medical Examination Manual*, examination templates, educational resources, contact information, and allows you to access your ICON portal.
  - ☐ E. All of the above.
- Match the following types of deficiencies with the best example:
  - A. Injured worker or claim information
  - B. Inadequate examination findings to support opinion
  - C. Factual
  - D. Miscalculation
  - E. Equivocation
  - F. Inconsistency
  - G. Insufficiency

\_\_\_ Referring to injured worker as "claimant"

\_\_\_ GAF = 70; WPI = 20% incapable of work

\_\_\_ Incomplete review of ADLs

\_\_\_ No identifying data on page headers

\_\_\_ No neurological examination on spine allowance

\_\_\_ "This self-limiting condition should be resolved by now"

\_\_\_ Range of motion impairments in knee flexion and extension are combined

**NOTE:** This activity is not a certified AMA category 1 activity, and so it cannot be used as credit toward medical board licensure in Ohio. However, it can be used toward the Ohio Industrial Commission requirement for continuing education credit specific to impairment rating at the time of your five-year application for reappointment to the specialist examiners' panel.