



MediScene

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

“A lot of people are just used to seeing the outcome of work. They never see the side of the work you go through to produce the outcome.”

- Michael Jackson

Show Your Work

Do you recall that fifth-grade math teacher who would hand back your test or homework assignment with the words above written in red ink?

The *AMA Guides to Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, Fifth Edition* (the *Guides*), Chapter 2 (“Practical Application of the *Guides*”), introduces information on how to use the *Guides* for consistent and reliable acquisition, analysis, communication, and utilization of medical information through a single set of standards.

The first paragraph states, “Two physicians, following the methods of the *Guides* to evaluate the same patient, should report similar results and reach similar conclusions. Moreover, if the clinical findings are fully described, any knowledgeable observer may check the findings with the *Guides* criteria.” In other words, “Show your work.”

Below are some good examples of tools available for us to use.

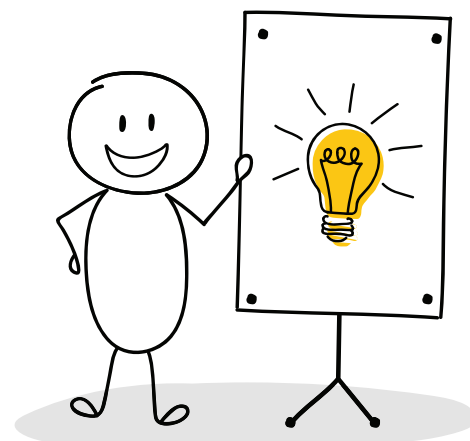
Here are two clinical examples of opportunities for examiners to help reduce requests for clarification of their reports, improve their accuracy, and enhance the reader’s understanding by showing their work. In the next issue, we will explore other examples.

Hips and Knees

Chapter 17 of the *Guides* simplifies impairment estimates in the lower limbs by providing Diagnosis-Based Estimates (Table 17-33). These are particularly helpful in evaluating hip and knee replacement. However, they do require the extra step of scoring the arthroplasty results using Tables 17-34 and 17-35. Your report should include the details of your scoring in each category to allow the reader to understand how you applied these data points in your impairment estimate.

Complex Upper Limb Injury

The evaluation of impairment of complex upper limb injuries can be tedious, not only for the evaluating specialist, but also for anyone in the system required to read the report. Fortunately, the *Guides* provide a worksheet on pages 436-437. This worksheet saves time and reduces errors for the evaluator but also provides an easy-to-follow calculation of the impairment for the reader. So, when evaluating impairment of a complex upper limb injury, please use this worksheet and submit it with your report. These “complex injuries” in the evaluation of impairments include amputation, hand injuries, multiple joint injuries, vascular disorders, crush injuries, and peripheral nerve disorders. This worksheet will help you reach an accurate estimate of impairment, and help your reader understand the pathway to your opinion.





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, subject line "MediScene Review Questions".

Your Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Time Spent on CME Activity: _____ (Maximum 30 minutes)

MEDISCENE REVIEW QUESTIONS, JULY 2025

- The criteria for rating hip arthroplasty include five categories. (the *Guides*, Table 17-34)
☐ A. True
☐ B. False
- The criteria for rating knee arthroplasty include five categories. (the *Guides*, Table 17-35)
☐ A. True
☐ B. False
- The criteria for rating knee arthroplasty rely more on functional than mechanical results. (the *Guides*, Table 17-35, compared to Table 17-34)
☐ A. True
☐ B. False
- Using and submitting the Upper Extremity Impairment Evaluation Work Sheet Record from the *Guides* improves report accuracy and readability. (the *Guides*, Sections 2.3 and page 22)
☐ A. True
☐ B. False
- According to the IC Medical Examiner's Manual, reports must present the objective clinical findings to support the specialist examiner's opinion. (IC *Medical Examination Manual*, pages 5 and 6)
☐ A. True
☐ B. False



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.