



Medi Scene

Keeping You Up-to-Date with the Industrial Commission • July 2011

Examining the Issues: Expedited Scheduling

Has your office considered expedited scheduling of Industrial Commission (IC) examinations? If not, you may be missing opportunities to provide this service.

To participate, you'll need to set aside designated slots in your schedule for IC examinations. This is similar to "block scheduling" in the operating room. For example, based on your estimated volume, you could designate (or "block") the last appointment on your schedule every Tuesday, or two appointments in the afternoon every other week for IC examinations. We can then work with your office to fill these time slots.

The IC is obligated to inform the Injured Worker of a scheduled appointment two weeks prior. This allows substantial "buffer time" for you and your office to arrange to use this time to your benefit if we are unable to fill it with an IC examination.

We are driven to provide the Injured Worker with an appointment for examination as soon as possible after we receive their application, for the benefit of all parties involved. Too often, when we call doctors for appointments, we find they are "booked too far out". If the time frame for scheduling is unacceptable, this results in a missed opportunity for the examining specialist to provide the service.



Please contact Dr. Welsh at twelsh@ic.state.oh.us or 614-466-1266 to discuss how you might put this tool to work for you.

Details, Details, Details! (Review of Records)

We all know to review the medical records provided at the time of an examination. The question is: what do we need to say about these records in our reports? Surprisingly, we see substantial variation amongst examining specialists.

The old adage "If it's not documented, it's not done" applies here. Failure to document what you reviewed may result in your report being thrown out as evidence. Unfortunately, we've seen otherwise sound reports nullified by this omission. This usually happens when the examining specialist picks

out and documents reviewing only those pieces of information she or he deems "pertinent."

Because the information you receive is part of a designated electronic packet, it is acceptable to say "I reviewed all of the information provided to me by the Industrial Commission." That information is on file and known to all parties to the claim. It is certainly then acceptable to pull out and expound impartially on information that you feel might help clarify your report for the reader.

Did you Know?

The Industrial Commission Medical Examination Manual has been revised. This latest edition can be found at ohioic.com, under the Medical Specialists' Resources tab. If you would like to request a hard copy, please contact us at dchamberlain@ic.state.oh.us or 614-466-4291.

Continuing education review questions MediScene- 07-11

1. It is IME best practice to review in your report only those records that you feel most pertinent and persuasive.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. If you feel the Injured Worker's subjective complaints are not substantiated by your objective findings, then it is prudent not to review and accept the report of his or her treating physician.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. The latest revision of the Industrial Commission Medical Examination Manual contains a new chapter discussing and providing sample reports for situations where the Injured Worker applying for PTD has already been found MMI by Commission order.
 - a. True
 - b. False
4. The Industrial Commission will notify you and the Injured Worker of a scheduled examination one week prior.
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. Blocking office time for IC examinations will provide more opportunity for examining specialists to provide PTD examinations, by shortening the time frame for the Injured Worker to be seen.
 - a. True
 - b. False
6. Expedited scheduling will result in more "down time" for me and my office because there is no way of knowing ahead of time if a time slot will be used.
 - a. True
 - b. False

(Answers: 1. B.; 2. B.; 3. A.; 4. B.; 5. A.; 6. B.)