

# Medi Scene

Keeping You Up-to-Date with the Industrial Commission • July 2012

## Attention: New Psych Referral Questions!

There are changes in referral questions for Ohio Industrial Commission Mental and Behavioral Health Permanent Total Disability examinations.

These changes are based on feedback from our Mental and Behavioral Health specialists. We believe the questions now better reflect the intent of the *AMA Guides* for addressing impairment rating in those cases where there is more than one allowed psychiatric/psychological condition.

The previous wording for question #2 was: "*Based on the AMA Guides, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Editions, and with reference to the Industrial Commission Medical Examination Manual, provide the estimated percentage of whole person impairment arising from each allowed psychological/psychiatric condition. Please list each condition and whole person impairment separately, and then provide a combined whole person impairment. If there is no impairment for an allowed condition indicate 0%.*"

The new wording for question #2 is: "*Based on the AMA Guides, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Editions, and with reference to the Industrial Commission Medical*

*Examination Manual, provide the estimated percentage of whole person impairment arising from the allowed psychological/psychiatric condition(s). Provide the class and percentage of impairment due to the allowed psychological/psychiatric condition(s) in each of the four functional areas, and then provide the percentage of whole person impairment.*"



Please know that with the new wording, it is expected that examiners will now consider the functional impact of multiple psychiatric/psychological conditions as a whole, rather than arriving at impairment ratings for each individual condition, and then combining those numbers for a final rating.

The requirement to follow the methodology of the *AMA Guides Fifth Edition* has not changed. That is, it will be expected that the examining specialist **assess and record** the extent of function in: 1) activities of daily living; 2) social functioning; 3) concentration, persistence and pace, and; 4) deterioration or decompensation in complex or work-like settings. (See Table 14-1, page 363.)

Please contact us if we can provide further clarification on this matter.

## Professional Liability Insurance Verification: Save the Date

This is the time of year when, for many of us, malpractice insurance renewal takes place.

The Ohio Industrial Commission requires its specialists to maintain professional liability insurance of \$1,000,000 per incident and \$1,000,000 per annum. We are required to verify this information annually.

To allow you adequate time to verify your coverage, we send a request for documentation of coverage forty-five, thirty, and fifteen days prior to the

expected expiration date. Though well-intended, this causes confusion for some, prompting transmission of verification of **last year's coverage**.

If you have not received your binder of coverage at the time of these early requests, we ask that you please use these as reminders to mark your calendar to send us documentation of **next year's coverage** prior to expiration.

**Did you Know?**

**Documenting records reviewed:** It is not necessary to list all of the records reviewed during preparation of your report. It is necessary to review all documents provided by the Industrial Commission, and then indicate that you did so. It may also be helpful to summarize findings in those records felt to be particularly important to the issues at hand.

## Continuing education review questions MediScene July 2012

1. Industrial Commission specialist examiners must maintain professional liability insurance of \$1,000,000 per incident and \$3,000,000 per annum and provide documentation of the same at the time of annual renewal.
  - A. True
  - B. False
2. It is expected that in response to the new wording of referral question #2 for Mental and Behavioral Health Industrial Commission Permanent Total Disability examinations specialist examiners will now document apportionment of impairment for each of the allowed conditions.
  - A. True
  - B. False
3. It is a new requirement of the Industrial Commission that Mental and Behavioral Health specialist examiners assess and record the extent of impairment in each of the “four functional areas” prior to arriving at a whole person impairment rating for the allowed condition(s).
  - A. True
  - B. False
4. Mental and Behavioral Health specialist examiners are now expected to consider the impact of multiple conditions on the function of an injured as whole, rather than providing ratings for each condition separately.
  - A. True
  - B. False

(Answers: 1., B. The amount is \$1,000,000/\$1,000,000.; 2., B. The examiner should consider the conditions as a whole rather than apportioning a percentage for each.; 3., B. This is not old, and has been the requirement since adoption of the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition methodology. (See Table 14-1, page 363.); 4. True.