



March 2009

THE IC

Medi Scene

Ohio | Industrial Commission

Keeping You Up-to-Date with the Industrial Commission

Meet the Deputy Director of IC Medical Services

Wanda Mullins was appointed Deputy Director of Medical Services for the Industrial Commission (IC) of Ohio in June of 2007.

Wanda received her BSN from Mount Carmel College of Nursing, and then completed her Masters of Science degree in Administration from Central Michigan University in 2006.

Wanda has worked for the State of Ohio for approximately five years in various positions. These include IC Quality Assurance Coordinator, Ohio Health Plans (OHP) Disability Determination RN Manager, and OHP Quality Assurance Operations Manager. Wanda also has many years of relevant clinical and administrative experience which include working as a nurse reviewer, case manager, discharge planner, orthopedic office RN and preadmission testing coordinator.

Wanda's goals for Medical Services are grounded in the mission of the Industrial Commission of Ohio. She plans to expand the distribution of specialties utilized, and to assist the Commission in development of new scheduling procedures that will result in improvement in the impartiality of examiner selection. Wanda plans to improve examiner access to medical information through the electronic record. She will continue to perform quality reviews and provide constructive feedback to examiners on their medical reports.

To contact Wanda Mullins, please email wmullins@ic.state.oh.us or call 614-466-4291.

What's New: Our Referral Questions

In coming months, you will notice modifications in the questions we ask you to address at the time of examination for permanent total disability. These changes were motivated by feedback from our specialist examiners and Industrial Commission Hearing Officers.

The aim is to make the questions more clear, direct, and specific. We have two goals. The first is to make certain our examiners know exactly what should to be addressed in their reports. The second is to provide our examiners with appropriate references for the required format and content of their reports.

The first question relates to the issue of maximum medical improvement (MMI). We have clarified this to remind the examiners that if MMI has not been reached for all of the allowed conditions, they should not proceed to the subsequent questions related to impairment and function. We have also asked examiners to

provide a brief discussion of the rationale for their opinion.

Question number two asks for an impairment rating. Here we have provided specialty-specific references to the AMA Guides and the on line version of our Medical Examination Manual. We have asked that each allowed condition be listed and rated separately and then combined. We have reminded the examiner to indicate 0% if there is no impairment from an allowed condition.

The final question deals with physical or mental limitations resulting from the allowed conditions. We are now asking the examiner to provide a discussion to help the reader understand how specific impairments might limit specific activities.

We hope these changes will help you provide medically sound and legally sufficient reports. Let us know what you think!



Did you Know?

The Industrial Commission requires that mental and behavioral disorders be evaluated utilizing the principles described in AMA Guides, 5th Edition, Chapter 14. This includes classifying impairment in four functional areas:

- (1) activities of daily living; (2) social functioning; (3) concentration; and
- (4) adaptation. Because the 5th edition does not provide impairment percentages, a table has been constructed combining the principles for estimating percentage of impairment from the 2nd edition, with the classes of impairment from the 5th edition. This table, and a detailed description of the process, can be found in the Industrial Commission Medical Examination Manual on pages 33 and 34.

Continuing education review questions MediScene Mar. 09

1. The Industrial Commission requires specialists evaluating mental and behavioral disorders to reference which of the following resources?
 - A. *AMA Guides 5th Edition.*
 - B. *AMA Guides 2nd Edition.*
 - C. The Industrial Commission Medical Examination Manual.
 - D. All of the above.
2. Which of the following issues should **not** be addressed in an Industrial Commission Permanent Total Disability (PTD) examination report?
 - A. Causality.
 - B. Maximum medical improvement.
 - C. Percentage of whole person impairment.
 - D. Physical and mental limitations due to the allowed condition.
3. The most significant change that occurred in the modification of the referral questions for Industrial Commission PTD examinations is
 - A. We now ask the examiner to apportion what part of the impairment is due to conditions not allowed in the claim.
 - B. We made the questions identical to a BWC C-92 examination.
 - C. We now ask the examining specialist to provide some discussion of the rationale used in formulating their opinion regarding maximum medical improvement and physical or mental limitations due to the allowed conditions.
 - D. We now ask the examining specialist to provide an opinion as to whether or not the industrial accident or exposure could have caused the allowed conditions.

(Answers: 1. D.; 2. A.; 3. C.)