

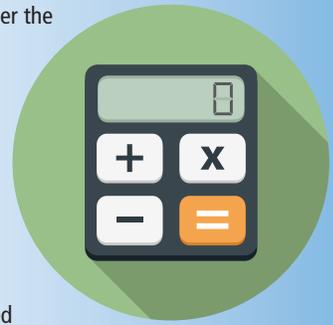
Combined Value Calculations

Once the medical history, medical exam and percent impairments of the injured worker are determined for all the allowed conditions, the number crunching begins to calculate the total whole person impairment. Loss of function is expressed as a percentage impairment of the whole body based on the *Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, 5th edition*. Multiple impairments are **combined** - not added - to yield a final total whole person permanent impairment.

The formula: $\% \text{ impairment} = [A + B(1 - A)] \times 100$ is the basis of this calculation, where A and B represent the decimal impairments to be combined. Using this formula, one can combine as many impairments as needed, without exceeding 100%.

For example, if an injured worker has the allowed condition of bilateral knee DJD, which resulted in bilateral total knee arthroplasties, both with a poor result, each knee would have a permanent impairment of 30% whole person. The combined impairment of both knees totals 51% whole person - (not 60%). The Combined Values Chart (Pages 604 - 606) tabulates the result of these combinations if a calculator is not available.

With any measurement and calculation, units must be specified. Some tables in the *Guides* give impairment with respect to the upper extremity, hand or digit. In these cases, the impairment needs to be converted to whole person. Consider the impairment of an index finger DIP joint fused in 50° flexion. See the box below to show the conversion to whole person impairment.



Finally, suppose this injured worker also has an allowed cervical radiculopathy, DRE Cervical Category III, 15% whole person impairment. What is the combined impairment of the DIP joint and the cervical radiculopathy? If you answered 18% whole person, you have a good understanding of combining impairment values.

R. Stanko MD, MS

CONVERSION TO WHOLE PERSON IMPAIRMENT EXAMPLE

	Percent of Index Finger Impairment	Value of Hand Imp. Per Index Finger Imp.	Value of Upper Extremity Imp. Per Hand Imp.	Value of Whole Person Imp. Per Upper Ext. Imp.	Percentage of Whole Person Impairment
Conversion Factor	39% X →	0.20 X → Hand Impairment	0.90 X → Upper Extremity Imp.	0.60 X → Whole Person Imp.	= 4% (rounded to nearest integer)
Guides Reference	Figure 16-21, pg. 461	Table 16-1, pg. 438	Table 16-2, pg. 439	Table 16-3, pg. 439	

Best Wishes

to Dr. Terrence Welsh

Dr. Welsh has served as Chief Medical Advisor at the Industrial Commission since July 2007. He will join a physician group in Northern Kentucky. Dr. Welsh will be missed and we wish him good luck in his future practice and endeavors.

Meet the Interim Chief Medical Advisor, Robin G. Stanko MD, MS

Dr. Robin Stanko became interim Chief Medical Advisor in February 2015. A native of Westlake, Ohio, Dr. Stanko is a graduate of Northwestern University and received his MD and MS degrees from The Ohio State University College of Medicine. Dr. Stanko has worked in private practice in Dayton and Westerville for 32 years.

He is certified by the American Board of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and the American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine. Dr. Stanko has done independent medical exams for the Industrial Commission

for over twenty years and serves on the BWC Health Care Quality Assurance Advisory Subcommittee. He is a Fellow of the American Association of Disability Examining Physicians. He also teaches chemistry at Clark State Community College in Springfield, Ohio.

In this position, Dr. Stanko is responsible for the development, implementation and administration of IME exams, physician recruitment and training. Dr. Stanko can be reached at (614) 466-1266 or contacted through email at robin.stanko@ic.ohio.gov.