

Get to Know Commissioner Jodie M. Taylor

The role might have changed, but Jodie M. Taylor's first day on the job as the IC's newest Commissioner did not happen in an unfamiliar workplace.

When Ms. Taylor became the Employer Member of the Industrial Commission of Ohio in July 2009, she had a strong knowledge of workers' compensation issues and the Agency.

Years before she was appointed by Governor Ted Strickland to the Commission, Ms. Taylor worked at the IC as an assistant.

From 1997 to 2000, Ms. Taylor served as an assistant to Commissioner Patrick Gannon. In this role, she performed legal and legislative research, assisted during hearings, and gained an extensive understanding of the Agency.

After leaving the IC, Ms. Taylor served as an attorney for two Columbus law firms, where she represented state-fund and self-insured employers at all levels of IC hearings and in court actions throughout Ohio. She is also a board certified specialist in workers' compensation and is a frequent lecturer on workers' compensation issues.

Ms. Taylor earned her bachelor's degree in diplomacy and foreign affairs from Miami University in 1991. While at Miami, Ms. Taylor studied overseas in Luxembourg. In 1995, she received her law degree from the University of Akron School of Law.

Jodie lives in Dublin with her husband, Michael. In October 2009, they welcomed twins, a boy and a girl, Evan and Elizabeth. Her first term as an IC Commissioner ends in June 2015.

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Examining the Issues

Our Mission: Scheduling PTD Examinations

The mission of the Ohio Industrial Commission (IC) is to serve the injured workers and employers of the state through expeditious and impartial resolution of issues arising workers' compensation claims.

Let's break down this mission statement to see how it applies to Permanent Total Disability (PTD) examination scheduling.

First, the "issue" of PTD arises when an injured worker files an application to the IC for consideration of eligibility for PTD benefits. In this case, the IC hearing officer will consider evidence pertinent to that application, including, but not limited to, medical evidence. Medical evidence may be presented by the injured worker or their representative as well as the employer or their representative. In addition to this, the IC obtains evidence from an independent medical specialist (that's you!) for opinions regarding maximum medical improvement, degree of impairment, and any physical or mental limitations (depending on your specialty) due to the allowed conditions.

Who do we consider a specialist? Our vision is to have specialists available who are well-trained, well-credentialed, well-respected, and experienced practitioners in their communities. (For more information about our credentialing, go to ohioic.com, and look under "Medical Specialist Resources").

This immediately turns us to the issue of "impartiality." How do we assure those persons served that we impartially select specialist examiners for these medical opinions?

The "sine qua non" of impartiality in an IC PTD examination is that the specialist holds no bias with respect to the injured worker, the employer, or the workers' compensation system. Examiners are excluded from performing specialist examinations when they have examined the injured worker or reviewed the claim file for the employer, the injured worker, the Bureau of Workers' Compensation or the IC within three years of the filing date of an application for permanent total disability. Physicians and psychologists are also excluded from performing specialist examinations when they have a contractual relationship with the injured worker, employer, or their representative, or have been the physician of record for the injured worker.

Knowing that these most essential criteria are met, personnel in charge of scheduling the examination will then determine which appropriate specialists are within reasonable proximity of the injured worker. At this point, consideration is also given to evenly distributing examinations amongst available specialists. This assures that no one individual or group of specialists are given preferential treatment with regard to examination scheduling.

Finally, we are compelled by our mission to be timely. In this regard, we monitor closely timeframes for availability of specialists for examination scheduling (how long does it take to "get in") and timelines of examiner reporting (how long does it take to get the report). This again is in consideration for all parties involved. Our targets for appointment scheduling and reporting are two weeks and ten days, respectively.

Did you Know?

Questions #1 and #3 in PTD examinations have changed. We now ask for a discussion of the rationale for your opinion regarding maximum medical improvement in question #1, and a discussion of any physical or mental limitations (depending on your specialty) due to the allowed conditions in question #3. If you do not include these elements in your report, it will be returned to you for completion before processing.

Continuing education review questions MediScene Oct. 2010

1. Which of the following concepts are addressed in the Ohio Industrial Commission's mission statement, and can be applied to PTD examination scheduling?

- A. Impartiality.
- B. Timeliness.
- C. Service.
- D. A and C.
- E. All of the above

2. Credentialing criteria for IC specialist examiners:

- A. Require two years of clinical practice experience.
- B. Can be found at ohioic.com.
- C. Require continuing education specific to impairment rating.
- D. Require board certification.
- E. C and D.
- F. All of the above.

3. When scheduling IC PTD examinations, consideration is given to:

- A. Impartiality of the examiner.
- B. The examiner's specialty.
- C. Proximity to the injured worker.
- D. Timeframe for scheduling the examination.
- E. Distributing examinations evenly to specialists.
- F. A., B., and C.
- G. All of the above.

(Answers: 1. E.; 2. F.; 3. G.)