

HOW TO BE DESIGNATED AS AN APPROVED MEDICAL SPECIALIST INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORM

Approved medical specialists are medical practitioners who have been trained to evaluate permanent impairment of injured workers according to the requirements of the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*. Permanent Impairment assessments form the basis for access to certain workers' compensation entitlements by injured workers.

WorkCover WA may, by order published in the Gazette, designate a person as an approved medical specialist if the person is a medical practitioner who is sufficiently trained in the use of the WorkCover WA Guides and satisfies WorkCover WA 's criteria for designation.

Criteria for Designation

In order to apply for designation as an approved medical specialist (under section 146F(1) of the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*) a person must:

1. Be registered as a medical practitioner; and
2. Provide evidence of current clinical practice and/ or expertise in assessment; and
3. Have undertaken training in the WorkCover WA Education Module, which includes training in the WorkCover Guides; and
4. (i) Undertaken training in the use of the American Medical Association Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, or have current accreditation as a "Certified Independent Medical Examiner" with the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners (ABIME); or
(ii) Undertaken other training in impairment assessment approved by WorkCover WA.

The relevant training (as per 4 (i) or (ii) above) is to have been undertaken within a period of five years immediately prior to the date of designation; and

5. (i) Have qualifications as a specialist; or
(ii) Be able to demonstrate competency levels acceptable to WorkCover WA.

Other (non-specialist) medical practitioners should note that in order to demonstrate the competency required, WorkCover WA will take into consideration an applicant's relevant skills, experience and qualifications. As a guide, WorkCover WA will review the extent to which a medical practitioner has:

- Significant work in a medical practice with consistent management and assessment of injured workers;
- Experience in undertaking medical assessments of injured workers;

- Relevant qualifications, for example ABIME exam certification or other similar qualifications related to medico-legal assessments or disability assessments.

Applications in this category will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Medical practitioners meeting the required criteria and wishing to apply for designation as an approved medical specialist should complete the Approved Medical Specialist Application Form and forward this to:

Standards & Monitoring Branch
WorkCover WA,
2 Bedbrook Place,
Shenton Park WA 6008.

Approval Process

1. Application forms and supporting evidence is submitted to WorkCover WA;
2. WorkCover WA verifies the required criteria and evidence;
3. Applications are submitted to WorkCover WA Medical Committee for review;
4. The WorkCover WA Medical Committee recommends designation or otherwise to the WorkCover WA Board;
5. The names of approved medical specialists will be sent to the State Law Publisher to be published in the Western Australian Government Gazette;
6. Applicants become designated as approved medical specialists;
7. Letters confirming designation or otherwise will be sent to applicants;
8. Successful applicants are subsequently authorised to undertake impairment assessment of injured workers wishing to claim certain statutory entitlements or commence common law action;
9. The Director of the WorkCover WA Dispute Resolution Directorate will keep a register of approved medical specialists that will be available to the public on request. This information will also be placed on the WorkCover WA website.

Further Information

Further information on approval, training, registration and monitoring of approved medical specialists can be found at:

- *The role of an approved Medical Specialist – Information for Medical Practitioners* publication
- WorkCover WA's Advisory Services on 1300 794 744
- www.workcover.wa.gov.au Health Providers - navigate to approved medical specialists.

About WorkCover W

WorkCover WA is the government agency responsible for overseeing the workers' compensation and injury management system in Western Australia.

This includes monitoring compliance with the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*, informing and educating workers, employers and others about workers compensation and injury management, and providing an independent dispute resolution system.



2 Bedbrook Place
Shenton Park
Western Australia 6008
www.workcover.wa.gov.au

telephone 08 9388 5555
facsimile 08 9388 5550
advisory services 1300 794 744
TTY 08 9388 5537



APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN APPROVED MEDICAL SPECIALIST

Name of Medical Practitioner:																		
Principal Practice Name:																		
Principal Practice Address:																		
Telephone No:																		
Medical Board Registration No:																		
Outline your expertise in impairment assessment:																		
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 35%;">Training:</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>Tick appropriate box/s and attach Certificate/s</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>American Medical Association 5 Guides</td> <td style="text-align: right;">- Attach copy <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent Medical Examiner with ABIME</td> <td style="text-align: right;">- Attach copy <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>WorkCover WA Education Module</td> <td style="text-align: right;">- Attach copy <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other training in impairment assessment (outline below)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">- Attach copy <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>.....</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>.....</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>.....</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>.....</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Training:	<i>Tick appropriate box/s and attach Certificate/s</i>	American Medical Association 5 Guides	- Attach copy <input type="checkbox"/>	Independent Medical Examiner with ABIME	- Attach copy <input type="checkbox"/>	WorkCover WA Education Module	- Attach copy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other training in impairment assessment (outline below)	- Attach copy <input type="checkbox"/>	
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The above training has been undertaken within the last 5 years Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>																		

Field of Specialisation: <div style="text-align: right;">- Attach evidence <input type="checkbox"/></div>
OR Non-Specialisation: List/describe/provide us with competency level (see 5(ii) on Information Sheet)
Other supporting documentation to be considered:

Please note the WorkCover WA Medical Committee may request further information when considering your application.

I wish to apply for designation as an approved medical specialist in accordance with section 146F(1) of the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*.

Signature of medical practitioner	Date
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Return the completed form to: **Standards & Monitoring Branch**
WorkCover WA,
2 Bedbrook Place,
Shenton Park WA 6008.

Office use only	Details	Officer
Date sent to Medical Committee:		
Date of registration (gazettal):		
WorkCover WA Provider Number:		