

Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023

APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR APPROVED PERMANENT IMPAIRMENT ASSESSORS [s.193]

Section 193(3) of the *Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023* (the Act) provides for WorkCover WA to issue, and amend or revoke, criteria that must be satisfied for the approval of a medical practitioner as a permanent impairment assessor.

The criteria set out below applies from 1 July 2024.

To be designated as an approved permanent impairment assessor (APIA) under section 193 of the Act, a person must satisfy **all** of the criteria:

1. Be registered as a medical practitioner¹ with no current notations, conditions or reprimands for disciplinary purposes recorded against their registration for medical practice.
2. Have at least five (5) years post-graduate experience as a medical practitioner.
3. Provide evidence of current clinical practice and/or expertise in assessment.
4. Have undertaken and completed training in the WorkCover WA Education Module, which includes training in the *WorkCover WA Guidelines for the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment* (WorkCover WA Guidelines)
5. **a)** Have undertaken and completed training in the use of the *American Medical Association Guidelines to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment* upon which the current edition of WorkCover WA Guidelines are based, **or**
b) Have current accreditation as a “Certified Independent Medical Examiner” with the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners (ABIME), **or**
c) Undertaken other training in impairment assessment approved by WorkCover WA.
6. Have qualifications as an Australian medical specialist.

¹ Medical practitioner under the *Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023* means:

(a) a person registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Western Australia) in the medical profession; or

(b) a person who is not resident in a State but who is recognised as a medical practitioner for the purposes of this Act by WorkCover WA.

Other (non-specialist) medical practitioners

Despite eligibility criteria 6, a non-specialist medical practitioner may be approved as an APIA and the criteria requirement to be a medical specialist waived. Upon application, WorkCover WA will consider the applicant's relevant skills, experience and qualifications to determine if the applicant's competency levels meet WorkCover WA's requirements. As a guide, WorkCover WA will review the extent to which a medical practitioner can demonstrate:

- 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.

Applications in this category will be considered on a case-by-case basis and decisions will be at the sole discretion of WorkCover WA.