

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXAMS
(Passed at 10/13/03 F.P.M.P. Governing Board Meeting)

Introduction

Independent Medical Exams are an option for revenue generation available to licensed health care providers. Independent Medical exams do not constitute the establishment of a doctor-patient relationship.

Definition

The IME is conducted by a licensed health care provider who has a medical license to practice. The IME is considered similar to but not exactly a medical exam. Exams are generally limited to:

- Completion of a medical-history form by the claimant;
- A review of available documents provided by the worker's ("treating") physician;
- A medical exam during which the IME physician asks questions about symptoms, treatment previously received, whether the medical condition is improving and, in some cases, during which the IME physician may perform a limited physical exam;
- Recording of impressions, either in writing or on tape-recorder, regarding the extent of injury or illness, the extent of disability, and what treatment, if any, is called for.

Policy

1. Practice Plan members may perform IMEs.
2. IME will be determined by each Practice Plan as to whether or not to be included in practice revenue. However, the official policy is that it is not clinical practice income but may be considered other income generated using Practice Plan resources and thus subject to Practice Plan management similar to practice income. Again, this will be determined on a plan basis.