

February 5, 2020

Leroy E. Young, DO
Chairman
Robert L. Remondino, MD
Vice Chairman
Oklahoma Workers Compensation Court of Existing Claims
Physician Advisory Committee
1915 N. Stiles Ave., Ste. 127
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Chairman Young and Vice Chairman Remondino:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, it has come to our attention that there may be a question as to the medical foundation of the AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, Sixth Edition (AMA Guides). Therefore, I am writing the Oklahoma Worker's Compensation Physician Advisory Committee (Committee) to provide clarifying information about the evidence-based, medically driven foundation and process for the AMA Guides.

In addition to the information below, I have attached the Preface from the AMA Guides Medical Editor. I have also included information about the practical use of the AMA Guides as well as a listing of the more than 100 physician and other health care professionals who serve on the editorial panel and advisory committee as well as those that serve as contributors or reviewers.

As noted by the AMA Guides Medical Editor, Features of the Guides Sixth Edition include the following:

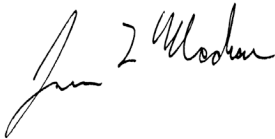
- A standardized approach across organ systems and chapters.
- The most contemporary, evidence-based concepts and terminology of disablement from the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).
- The latest scientific research and evolving medical opinions provided by nationally and internationally recognized experts.
- Unified methodology that helps physicians calculate impairment ratings through a grid construct and promotes consistent scoring of impairment ratings.
- A more comprehensive and expanded diagnostic approach.
- Precise documentation of functional outcomes, physical findings, and clinical test results, as modifiers of impairment severity.
- Increased transparency and precision of the impairment ratings.
- Improved physician interrater reliability.

Leroy E. Young, DO
Robert L. Remondino, MD
February 5, 2020
Page 2

Taken together, I hope this provides the Committee the necessary background to affirmatively answer any questions as to whether the AMA Guides are an evidence-based, authoritative source for the evaluation of impairment.

If you have further questions, please contact Daniel Blaney-Koen, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, AMA Advocacy Resource Center, at daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4954.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim L Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Oklahoma State Medical Association

Attachment