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Shenton Park
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telephone 08 9388 5555
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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 as an Approved Medical Specialist

The following are the current Gazette criteria applied by WorkCover WA when deciding whether a medical practitioner is suitable for designation as an approved medical specialist –

To be designated 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 WA Guides; and
4.
 - (i) Undertaken training in the use of the edition of the *American Medical Association Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment* upon which the current edition of the WorkCover WA Guides are based; or
 - (ii) Have current accreditation as a "Certified Independent Medical Examiner" with the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners (ABIME); or
 - (iii) Undertaken other training in impairment assessment approved by WorkCover WA; 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 the 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 Application for Designation as an Approved Medical Specialist 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. WorkCover WA will maintain a register of approved medical specialists and publish it to 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 WA

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.



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APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN APPROVED MEDICAL SPECIALIST

Name of Medical Practitioner:	
Principal Practice Name:	
Principal Practice Address:	
Telephone No:	Fax No:
Email Address:	
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)	
Registration No.: _____	Attach copy <input type="checkbox"/>
Outline your expertise in impairment assessment:	
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	
Training:	
<i>Tick appropriate box/s and attach Certificate/s</i>	
American Medical Association (AMA) Guides	Attach copy <input type="checkbox"/>
Certified Independent Medical Examiner (CIME) with the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners (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"/>
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	

Field of Specialisation:.....
 Attach evidence

OR Non-Specialisation:
List/describe/provide us with competency level (see 5(ii) on Information Sheet)

Other supporting documentation to be considered:

 Attach evidence (ie. copy of CV)

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

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:		