



**MOTOR ACCIDENTS
ASSESSMENT SERVICE**

Medical Assessment Fee Schedule 2013

| Medical Assessor Fees (Fees and Loadings applicable to all MAS 1A, 2A & 4A assessments conducted on or after 1 March 2013) | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|---|---------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Assessment Type | On Papers | Physical | Complex* Physical or Average Occupational Therapy | ABI | Complex* ABI or Complex Occupational Therapy | Psychiatric | Complex* Psychiatric |
| Single application | \$1,070 | \$1,070 | \$1,430 | \$1,430 | \$1,785 | \$1,430 | \$1,785 |
| Two applications* | \$1,430 | \$1,430 | \$1,785 | \$1,785 | \$2,140 | \$1,785 | \$2,140 |

| Review Panel Medical Assessor Fees (Fees and Loadings applicable to all MAS 5A Panel Determinations made on or after 1 March 2013) | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Assessment Type | Determined on papers at initial conference | Determined at second conference | Determined at third conference | Additional Fees | | | |
| | | | | Physical Examiner | Psychiatric Examiner | Certificate Writer | Panel Chair |
| Average | \$1,070 | \$1,785 | \$2,140 | | | | |
| Complex* | \$1,430 | \$2,140 | \$2,500 | + \$360 | + \$715 | + \$715 | + \$360 |

| Additional Loadings | | | |
|---|---|---|---------|
| Assessors | Additional Item | Description | Amount |
| Medical Assessors (Not relevant to Review Panel Assessors) | Neuropsychological assessment (ABI* protocol) | • Screening assessment | \$1,785 |
| | | • Full assessment | \$2,860 |
| | Assessor conferencing* | • Per hour or part thereof | \$180 |
| | Extra 'minor' impairment assessments | • Minor skin or minor dental injuries | \$180 |
| | Multiple treatment disputes | • Three or more disputes re causation & R&N | \$180 |
| Review Assessors | Non-attendance or Late Cancellation | • Notified with 1 week to 72 hours notice | \$180 |
| | | • Notified with 72 hours to 48 hours notice | \$360 |
| | | • Notified with less than 48 hours notice | \$715 |
| Medical Assessors and Review Panel Assessors | Interpreter loading | • Physical examination/Assessor | \$360 |
| | | • Psychiatric examination/Assessor | \$715 |
| | Travel to conduct an examination* | • Per examination | \$180 |
| Review Panel Assessors | Video review | • Per hour or part thereof | \$180 |
| | | Hourly rate | \$180 |
| | | • Motor vehicle kilometre rate | \$0.55 |

*Explanatory Notes - General

- **Rates** - All figures refer to Australian dollar amounts and are exclusive of GST and superannuation and the fees are based on an hourly rate of \$357. This hourly rate may have been rounded up or down to the nearest \$5 for each assessment event.
- **Inclusions** - Fees include the Assessor's review of the file and documents, examination and preparation of a certificate including reasons in accordance with MAAS requirements.
- **Timing** – Medical Assessor Fee Invoices may be issued at the same time as, or after, all relevant certificates from the Assessor on a matter have been received by MAAS. Review Panel Assessor Fee Invoices may be issued at the same time as, or after, the relevant Review Panel certificates have been agreed by all Panel members and have been received by MAAS.
- **Obvious Errors** - No additional fee is payable if additional work is required as a result of a request for correction of an obvious error, as defined by clause 17.4 of the Medical Assessment Guidelines.
- **Settlements** - Where a matter is withdrawn or settled after referral to an Assessor or Review Panel, no further work by the Assessor or Review Panel will be required. Fees payable are calculated according to work already undertaken by the Assessor or Review Panel as allowed in the Fee Schedule and/or in accordance with the relevant cancellation fees.
- **Additional Loadings** - The relevant Manager may allow a discretionary loading based on the hourly rate of \$357 in cases where it is agreed that the assessment will be more time consuming than the Fee Schedule allows. All requests for any additional loadings for Medical Assessors fees must be approved by the Medical Assessments Manager, Principal MAS Standards Officer, or the Principal MAS Policy Officer and for Review Panel Medical Assessor fees by the Medical Assessment Reviews Manager.
- **Travel expenses** – The MAA and MAAS are guided by NSW Government policies and procedures. To assist in the timely and accurate processing of claims for travel expenses, all claims should be made on a Travel Expenses Claim Form. For Review Panel members, claims for the Hourly Rate Loading should be invoiced with the Review Panel Fee.

Assessors are not to seek or accept frequent flyer points from any airline in respect of official travel. Consideration should be given to obtaining the best (but refundable) fare of the day, considering cost, seat availability, timing, preferred airline and the acceptability of any fare conditions or other restrictions. No 'service' or 'booking fee' associated with travel expenses can be claimed. Taxis may be used when public transport is either not available to the destination or due to the timetable, is not a practical means of travel.

- **Daily Allowances** - If an Assessor is required to travel to conduct an assessment and overnight accommodation is required, an Assessor may claim a daily allowance, including accommodation and sustenance. Sydney Assessors travelling to a 'country' assessment may claim up to \$353.05 per day and non-Sydney Assessors travelling to a 'Sydney' assessment may claim \$428.05 per day.
- **Medical Assessors Fees – Two Applications** - A single application is an application for assessment of either only permanent impairment OR only treatment. If there is an additional application there will always be a separate MAS application form for assessment of each separate dispute. Where there is an application for assessment of a treatment dispute AND an application for assessment of a permanent impairment dispute, both referred to the one Assessor, this will be an assessment of two applications.
- **Medical Assessors Fees - Assessor Conferencing** - The Assessor conference fee is applicable to those matters where the Proper Officer allocates a matter to two or more Assessors to assess (either independently or simultaneously), and permits them to then confer to discuss the assessment prior to each Assessor issuing respective certificates and submitting these to MAS. Each Assessor who participates in the conference will receive the additional Assessor conferencing fee.

Explanatory Notes - Complexity

- **Complex ABI Assessments**

- The complex ABI (Acquired Brain Injury) physical fee applies where the Assessor is asked to examine an ABI injury as well as two or more other body systems.

- **Complex Physical & Complex Psychiatric Assessments**

- Permanent Impairment Assessments

- *Not Complex*

- 1 or 2 body systems to be assessed (there may be more than one injury in each body system). For example, a soft tissue injury to the cervical, thoracic, lumbar spine and shoulders is average because it involves 2 body systems – Spine and Upper Limb; AND
- The review of documents should not take significantly more than one hour.

- *Complex*

- More than 2 body systems requiring examination; OR
- Complex multiple injuries within one body system e.g. separate finger, wrist and shoulder injuries (Note Bilateral injuries do not constitute a complex case); OR
- Examination of the claimant is likely to take longer than one hour for physical or two hours for psychiatric cases; OR
- A large quantity of documentation is provided, which is likely to take significantly more than one hour to review; OR
- The Assessor is asked to assess the claimant in relation to more than one motor accident and therefore issue more than one certificate.

- Treatment Assessments

- *Not Complex*

- Assessment of several treatment disputes which relate to the same injury, e.g.:
 - Physiotherapy and arthroscopy disputed in a knee injury – single analysis of the current status and need for further intervention in relation to a knee injury only.
 - Massage therapy, CT scan and need for ongoing review by an orthopaedic specialist in relation to a soft tissue injury of the spine. All decisions in this case flow from a single analysis of the status and need for further intervention in relation to the spinal injury; AND
- The review of documents should not take significantly more than one hour.

- *Complex*

- Assessment of several treatment disputes requiring separate analysis of different factors, such as diagnosis, benefit from further intervention and extent and impact of functional limitations, e.g.:
 - Physiotherapy, surgery and need for domestic assistance;
 - Orthopaedic consultations, physiotherapy and various pharmaceuticals;
 - Facet joint injections, domestic assistance, CT scans, specialist review; OR
- Examination of the claimant is likely to take longer than one hour; OR
- A large quantity of documentation is provided, which is likely to require significantly more than one hour to review; OR
- The Assessor is asked to assess the claimant in relation to more than one motor accident and therefore issue more than one certificate.

- Occupational Therapy Treatment Disputes
 - *Average Occupational Therapy Treatment*
 - An 'average' Occupational Therapy treatment assessment to be defined as one where:
 - Examination of the claimant takes no longer than two hours; OR
 - Documentation is not likely to require significantly more than one hour to review; OR
 - The Assessor is required to certify two or less separate periods of care.
 - *Complex*
 - A 'complex' Occupational Therapy treatment assessment to be defined as one where:
 - Examination of the claimant is likely to take longer than two hours; OR
 - A large quantity of documentation is provided, which is likely to require significantly more than one hour to review; OR
 - The Assessor is required to certify more than two separate periods of care.
- Further Assessments
 - *Complex*
 - A Further Assessment is classified as a 'complex' matter due to the number of files and quantity of documentation provided, which is likely to require significantly more than one hour to review.

Explanatory Notes - Review Panel Assessor Fees Inclusions

The Review Panel Medical Assessor Fee Schedule includes an allowance for:

- up to 3 hours (not complex matters) and 4 hours (complex matters) to be spent by each Panel member where the determination is made at the initial conference;
- up to 2 additional hours for the Panel member nominated to write the Panel certificate including reasons, to allow for the drafting, amending and finalisation of the Review Panel certificate/s (note that the Panel certificate including reasons does not necessarily have to be written by the Panel Chair);
- up to 1 additional hour for the Panel member nominated to be the Panel Chair;
- up to 1 additional hour for any Panel member who conducts a physical examination of the claimant;
- up to 2 additional hours for any Panel member who conducts a psychiatric examination of the claimant;
- up to 2 additional hours for all Panel members where a second teleconference is required, to allow 1 hour for document revision and/or the circulation/reading of examination notes, and 1 hour for the teleconference; and
- up to 1 additional hour for all Panel members where a third teleconference is required, to allow for document revision and the teleconference.


Jennifer Kirkby

Medical Assessments Manager


Janet Ashpole

Medical Assessment Reviews Manager