Welcome

Doug Martin, M.D.
Guide Panel Co-Chair
Occupational Medicine

Mark Melhorn, M.D.
Guide Panel Co-Chair
Orthopaedic Surgery

Dave Sosnow
Vice President, Health Solutions
American Medical Association
Thank you!

- Physicians: 35+
- Judges: 20+
- Health Care Professionals, Attorneys & Legal, Policy Analysts, Associations and More: 30+
- States: 20+
- Provinces & Territories: 8
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Meeting Mechanics

• All attendees have been auto-muted to prevent background noise. Please unmute yourself prior to speaking.
• There will be periodic pauses for questions. Participants are also invited to participate towards the end of discussion and are asked to introduce themselves, their organization, and if they have any conflict of interest prior to speaking.
• Hand raise or chat feature encouraged to indicate desire to speak
• This meeting will be recorded and may be made available for future review.
Meeting Mechanics - Zoom Overview

AMA Guides®
Achieving Equitable Impairment Ratings Through the Most Current Medicine

April 15, 2021
1:00 PM Central Time

Chat, Q&A, and Hand Raising Features
AMA Guides Sixth 2021

Content updates based on the most current medicine have been adopted by the AMA Guides Editorial Panel. AMA Guides Sixth 2021 has been available on AMA Guides Digital since April 1, 2021.

Effective July 1, 2021, AMA will consider this content the most current version of AMA Guides Sixth Edition.
Mission

The AMA is committed to serving stakeholders (e.g., patients, physicians, government) with fair and equitable permanent impairment ratings that can be completed promptly without undue administrative burden.

By engaging the community of practice, the AMA Guides editorial process incorporates the best available science and evidence-based medicine, reflecting medical advances and new insights.
Current Assessment
Shared Objectives
Transparent Editorial Process

Content development
Peer review by specialty experts develop editorial change proposal for consideration

Preliminary approval
Proposal presented to AMA Guides® Editorial Panel for approval*
Proposal accepted by Editorial Panel

Public comment period*
AMA Federation
Allied Health Associations
Workers’ Comp Associations
Legal Associations
Input is Advisory-only

Panel approval and adoption
Publishing on Scheduled Cadence

*Opportunity for Interested Party Review/Comment
An impairment rating is often only **one input** into a complex disability and compensation calculation.

Impairment ratings and impairment rating reports produced using the AMA Guides are used as a **critical input** in determining **fair compensation** for individuals with work related injuries.

Determination of appropriate compensation is the realm of **state/jurisdictional governments**, not physicians.
Why Using the Most Current Medicine is Important

Shoulder arthroscopy and herniated disk images reproduced with permission from OrthoInfo
© American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. [https://orthoinfo.org/](https://orthoinfo.org/)
Experts in Mental and Behavioral Health

Glenn Martin, MD
American Psychiatric Association

Les Kertay, PhD, ABPP
American Psychological Association

Marilyn Price, MD
Member, AMA Guides Editorial Panel
AMA Guides Sixth 2021

- Content update provides **clarification and updated terminology** around mental and behavioral health concepts to improve interrater reliability. Overview of updates to **Mental and Behavioral Health Content**:
  - Change from DSM IV to DSM 5 terminology and methodology
  - Newer editions of Assessment Tools and Tests
  - Descriptions of Malingering and Motivation
  - Removal of summaries of psychiatric diagnoses and conditions from the Glossary to mitigate discrepancies in a forensic setting

- Removal of GAF results in **more accurate** mental and behavioral health impairment ratings

- **Minor editorial corrections** to Lower Extremity and Spine content
Change from DSM-IV to DSM-5

Advantages:

• Allow evaluator to use the most recent evidence-based classification
• Used by psychiatrists and mental health clinicians for the purpose of diagnosis, treatment and research
• DSM-5 was first published in 2013, so submitted records will likely use DSM-5 diagnoses
GAF

• DSM-5 discontinued the multiaxial method, and the global assessment of functioning (GAF) scale specifically
• Lack of conceptual clarity e.g. include symptoms, suicide risk and disabilities in its descriptors
• Questionable psychometrics in routine practice
• Requires specific training
GAF (Gold, 2014)

• GAF correlates more highly with symptom severity than with levels of impairment, especially with not congruent

• Decrease of construct validity due to GAF conflation of symptom severity including danger to self and others and functional impairment into a single score

Removal of GAF in rating impairment

Impairment Ratings will use:

• **Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS)**
  • Focuses solely on symptom severity
  • 24 symptom constructs with 0-7 point scale

• **Psychiatric Impairment Rating Scale (PIRS)**
  • 6 scales, each evaluates an area of functional impairment
WHODAS 2.0

• Consistent with ICD 10th Edition
• Includes consideration of social factors related to functioning e.g. personal factors such as age, education and motivation and environmental factors such as available accommodations and support
• Even if same diagnosis and level of functional impairment, can have different level of disability based on personal or environmental factors
• Functional impairment rating is NOT related to a specific psychiatric diagnosis –includes any medical or psychiatric illness
• Not specific etiology
Questions and Discussion

Hari Iyer
Member since 2017
Adopting the Most Current Medicine

Victoria Riordan, MPH
Program Manager, AMA Guides
American Medical Association

Daniel Blaney-Koen, JD
Sr. Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center
American Medical Association
Anticipated Content Roadmap

2021
Mental and Behavioral Health

2022
Spine
Patient Reported Outcome Measures
Mild Traumatic Brain Injury

2023 and Beyond
Ophthalmology
Rating Terminology
Upper & Lower Extremity

Mental & Behavioral Health
Spine
Patient-Reported Outcome Measures
mTBI
Ophthalmology
Rating Scale Terminology
Upper & Lower Extremity
What is Changing in AMA Guides Sixth 2021 and Why?

Achieving accurate, equitable and consistent impairment ratings means that methodology should change when medical advances change long term patient outcomes.
**Resource Toolkit**

**AMA Guides® to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment**

*AMA Guides® are changing in 2021*

The American Medical Association is committed to providing the most current evidence-based science and medicine to assure medical evaluators can provide fair and equitable ratings for every patient even in areas where additional guidance is most needed with equitable treatment of every patient with the best Evaluation of Permanent Impairment.

Acceleration of medical and technological advancements has led to a dramatically updated, easy-to-access tool to help relevant content. Consequently, a new stakeholder-driven, transparent process allows rapid review and timely incorporation of new information. The recently appointed multidisciplinary AMA Guides Editorial Panel reflects the communities the AMA Guides serve. The AMA Guides Editorial Panel is comprised of experts from fields including neurology, nursing, occupational medicine, orthopedics, pain medicine, physical medicine, and rehabilitation, physical therapy, preventive medicine, and psychiatry.

In the first quarter of 2021, the AMA intends to deliver AMA Guides Digital to provide annual content updates and to provide access to AMA Guides Sixth and the updated AMA Guides Sixth 2021. States that designate use of the most recent edition of AMA Guides should automatically roll over to AMA Guides Sixth 2021, which will be available online only.

**AMA Guides® to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment**

*Frequently Asked Questions*

**How did the AMA select the editorial panel members?**

The panel was selected through rigorous processes and includes a broad selection of nominations from more than 200 organizations across the medical community reflecting the communities the AMA Guides serve. The AMA Guides Editorial Panel is comprised of experts from fields including neurology, nursing, occupational medicine, orthopedics, pain medicine, physical medicine, and rehabilitation, physical therapy, preventive medicine, and psychiatry.

**AMA Guides® to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment**

*AMA Guides® are changing*

Q & A with Barry Gellin, MD, DC

AMA Guides Editorial Panel Advisor

2020-21 President of the International Academy of Independent Medical Evaluators (IAIME)

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**Sample Tweet**

Are you ready for AMA Guides Sixth 2021? Learn more ama-guides.ama-assn.org
(ii) As used under the provisions of this title, "functional impairment" means an anatomical or functional abnormality existing after the date of maximum medical improvement as determined by a medically or scientifically demonstrable finding and based upon the Sixth (6th) edition of the American Medical Association’s Guide to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment or comparable publications of the American Medical Association.
Questions and Discussion

Luis Seija, MD & Emily Dewar, MD
Members since 2015
Get Involved

- Attend Panel Meetings
- Submit a Proposal to Update the Guides
- Public Comment Period – Coming Soon!
- Receive Stakeholder Updates
Closing

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Stakeholder Update
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