

WHEN NOT TO GET AN INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXAMINATION (IME)

Don't get an IME:

- Just because you don't know what to do on the claim.
Some alternatives to getting an IME include:
 - Do a thorough file review to find the needed information.
 - Ask the attending physician and/or concurrent care physician for needed information. For example:
 - A clear treatment plan.
 - Medical documentation as to whether the worker is making progress.
 - Diagnostic test results.
 - Ask the AP to get a consultation with a local provider.
- If the worker is in the acute recovery stage following major surgery, usually six weeks. Worker progress may be slowed and movement limited by dressings, casts, or other factors.
- If the worker is already scheduled or waiting for a:
 - Consultation.
 - Pain program referral.
 - Diagnostic test result.
- When the worker has already been to more than one IME within the past year.

Remember consultants and pain program doctors can rate PPD and review job analyses when requested.