

SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT –INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

WAC 296-23-302, Independent Medical Examinations (IMEs) Definitions,
WAC 296-23-317 What qualifications must a provider meet to become an approved independent medical examination (IME) provider and be assigned an IME provider number?
WAC 296-23-337, For what reasons shall the Department’s medical director or designee suspend or terminate approval of an independent medical examination (IME) examiner or firm?
WAC 296-23-387 What are the responsibilities of an independent medical examination (IME) provider regarding testimony?

ASSESSING COSTS:

Twenty-five individual IME providers will be impacted by WAC 296-23-317 (2)(a) and (2)(c). These portions of the rule require medical physicians, surgeons, osteopathic physicians and surgeons, and podiatrists to hold a current board certification in their specialty or to have completed a residency and be within five years of obtaining board certification. These providers will either become board certified or be disqualified as IME providers.

ECONOMIC IMPACT BY SIZE OF BUSINESS:

All impacted providers qualify as small businesses.

REDUCING COSTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS:

WAC 296-23-317 (2)(a)(ii) and (2)(c)(ii) provide that an IME provider who is not currently board certified can be an IME provider as long as they are within five years of becoming board certified. Thus effected providers need not be immediately disqualified; they can remain IME providers as long as they make efforts to complete board certification within five years.

SMALL BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT IN THE RULEMAKING:

The IME Coalition participated in the rulemaking process.

INDUSTRIES REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE RULE:

Only that portion of the medical care industry that is involved in providing Independent Medical Examinations for L&I patients is required to comply with this rule.

JOBS EXPECTED TO BE CREATED OR LOST DUE TO THIS RULE:

L&I does not expect that any jobs will be created or lost due to this rule.