



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES
Office of the Medical Director
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Washington State uses four rating systems across a variety of laws, rules, and the *AMA Guides*. For specific instructions and discussion of these systems, please refer to the Washington State Medical Examiners Handbook (MEH).

The MEH is found at: <https://www.lni.wa.gov/forms-publications/F252-001-000.pdf>

Overview of the Four Rating Systems for Washington State

| Rating System | Used for these Conditions | Form of the Rating |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Category Rating System (Washington State) | Spine, neurologic system, mental health, respiratory, taste & smell, speech, skin, and disorders affecting other internal organs | Select the category that most accurately indicates overall impairment |
| 2. AMA Guides RCW 51.32.080 RCW 51.36.020(2) | Loss of function of extremities, partial loss of vision and hearing | Determine the percentage of loss of function, as compared to amputation value listed in RCW 51.32.080 |
| 3. RCW 51.32.080 (see next section) | Specified disabilities: loss by amputation, total loss of vision and hearing | Supply the level of amputation or total loss |
| 4. Total Bodily Impairment (TBI) | Impairments not addressed by any of the rating systems above | Supply the percentage of TBI. (Note: This is an unusual situation.) |

As you progress through the eMedicoLegal training by Christopher Brigham, MD keep in mind that there are some differences for the Washington system:

Chapter 1:

1. Spinal Ratings are performed using the RCW Category Rating system, not the *AMA Guides*.
2. Washington uses upper or lower extremity levels of impairment, not whole person impairment.

Chapter 16 and Chapter 17:

1. If the amputation is through a joint, refer to RCW rating system.

Specific instructions for use of rating systems and reference pages for the Medical Examiner Handbook:

| ORGAN SYSTEM, BODY PART OR TYPE OF INJURY | RATING SYSTEM | SEE PAGE IN THIS BOOK: |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| Amputation | Specified in RCW | 101-105 |
| Back (Cervical, Thoracic, Lumbo-Sacral) | Category Rating System | 85-95 |
| Cardiac | Category Rating System | 97 |
| Cognitive Impairment | AMA Guides | 111 |
| Convulsive Neurologic Disorders (Seizures, Epilepsy) | Category Rating System | 97-98 |
| Dental, tooth loss | Contact Claim Manager | 98 |
| Digestive Tract | Category Rating System | 99-101 |
| Extremities (upper and lower) | AMA Guides | 101-105 |
| Hearing * Total loss * Partial loss | Specified in RCW AMA Guides | 106-110 |
| Hernia, (Inguinal, Umbilical etc.) | AMA Guides | 111 |
| Mental Health | Category Rating System | 111-116 |
| Pelvis | Category Rating System | 96 |
| Respiratory * Air Passages ** Chronic Sinusitis | Category Rating System *Category Rating System **AMA Guides | 116-123 |
| Skin | Category Rating System | 123-125 |
| Speech | Category Rating System | 126 |
| Taste and Smell | Category Rating System | 127 |
| Urologic | Category Rating System | 127-129 |
| Vascular | AMA Guides | 130 |
| Visual System * Enucleation ** Total loss *** Partial loss | *Specified in RCW **Specified in RCW ***AMA Guides | 130-136 |
| Others not listed above | Total bodily impairment | 79-80 |