

# Frequently Asked Questions about Permanent and Stationary (P&S)/Impairment Report/PR-4 Reports

## **What is a permanent and stationary (P&S)/Impairment Report/PR-4?**

A PR4 report is a special report required by law to determine the state of your medical condition. Some people may refer to this exam as a “Permanent and Stationary Report”. This report indicates that your doctor has completed the active treatment options, and you have now made the best possible stable recovery. You may still have some symptoms of pain or ongoing need for medications.

This report requires a doctor with special skills to take a complete history, physical exam, and take detailed measurements. This report will help the insurance company understand what restrictions (if any) are necessary, what care you will need in the future, and provide an impairment rating (i.e. loss of a body part use) number that will assist in the final processing of your claim.

## **Why is my doctor not doing this report?**

Your doctor has selected Impairment Rating Specialists to generate your PR4 report because he/she desires you to have the most accurate and complete medical/legal report as possible. This report is a highly specialized report that requires the study and use of the AMA Guides 5<sup>th</sup> Edition to write this report. In 2005, California required by law that this system be used to rate the residual impairment caused by work injuries. Accurate use of the AMA Guides requires active study practice dedicated to objective, reproducible results for rating purposes.

## **What will be included in my exam?**

Your exam will begin by filling out a questionnaire that will describe how you are affected by your injury, and how it may limit you in your day to day life. This will be followed by a review with the evaluating doctor to insure your answers are correct and accurately reflect symptoms. A complete exam will be performed, and special measurements will be collected to complete the report. Each measurement in the exam is required to be “reproducible” for rating purposes. You will be asked to perform each motion of measurement (i.e. bending forward at the waist) three times. This will allow the doctor to verify that your motion is “reproducible” and therefore accurate for assignment of a rating number. You will need to perform each motion within 10% of the others for it to be considered a “valid” measurement. If the measurements are not valid, they cannot be rated in the AMA Guides 5<sup>th</sup> Edition.

## **Will I ever be able to get medical care again after this exam?**

The need for ongoing medical care will be addressed in this report. If appropriate, medications, physical therapy, injections and even possible surgery will be recommended in the report for future care and services. These recommendations will be based on a combination of your doctor’s understanding of your condition, and the evaluator’s opinion of “medical necessity”. You may review the recommendations with your doctor, claims adjuster (or attorney if you have one) following the publishing of this report.

## **What if I still have questions?**

Following the report, if you are still unclear about the findings and recommendations, you should speak with your doctor, claims adjuster, (or attorney). Be sure you have all of your questions answered. Remember, your doctor and Impairment Rating Specialists are working as a team to insure you receive the most accurate and complete report available.

We wish you good health,



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