

Independent medical examinations

Information for workers

Why am I going?

Your treating doctor or GP can provide us with information about your injury. However, sometimes we need additional information or clarification of specific medical aspects of your injury.

In order to obtain this information, we have made an appointment for you to see an independent medical practitioner. This appointment is for an examination only and this doctor will not provide any treatment.

Who will I see?

You will see a registered medical practitioner who is in private practice and does not work for WorkCover Queensland. This doctor has agreed to provide an independent examination and report to us on specific medical aspects of your injury.

What will happen?

Each doctor has their own way of performing an examination. Depending on our needs or requests, examinations are often limited to a particular aspect of an injury. As a result, some examinations can take a long time, while others may be very short, with the doctor asking only a few questions.

Usually the doctor is supplied with background information from your file and may choose to read this before or after the examination. They may ask questions already covered by your treating doctor and order tests or x-rays, if they feel these are needed.

If you are unsure of anything, please feel free to ask questions at the start of the examination and the doctor will be able to clarify their role.

Will the doctor treat me differently to my own doctor?

Yes, because you have not been referred to the doctor for treatment, the examination may be different from what you are used to.

Please understand that, because the doctor is not treating you, they cannot offer comment about treatment options or diagnoses, or discuss any other aspects of your injury or claim. You may wish to talk to your own treating doctor about these matters.

Can I take someone with me?

Yes, you can take someone with you, but it is up to the doctor whether they will allow you to have friends or relatives present during the examination.

What happens after the examination?

The doctor will send a report to WorkCover Queensland. In some cases, we may forward the report to your own doctor if we consider it may help in managing your injury.

Is the doctor involved in decision-making?

No, we are responsible for making decisions (under workers' compensation legislation) about accepting your application for compensation and managing your claim. The doctor will only give us relevant medical advice about your injury.

Can I see the report?

In most cases, you will be able to access any information on your claim file, including medical reports. You can talk to your customer advisor or claims assessor for further information.

What if I am unhappy with the report or examination?

If you are unhappy with the examination or report please discuss your concerns with your customer advisor or claims assessor. Please understand the doctor is under no obligation to discuss the examination or report with you, as their role is only to provide a report to WorkCover.

Contacting us

You can call your case manager or assessor using their direct number or call us on 1300 362 128 and ask to be put through. Further information is also available on our web site at www.workcoverqld.com.au.