AMA Guides Sixth 2022: Current medicine for permanent impairment ratings

About AMA Guides Digital

The AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment provide a reliable, repeatable measurement framework for assessing permanent impairment and have been the trusted gold standard by physicians, patients, and the legal and regulatory communities.

AMA Guides Digital is a dynamic, digital platform that provides access to the most current impairment rating information online. AMA Guides Digital hosts AMA Guides Sixth (2008), AMA Guides Sixth 2021 and the all-new AMA Guides Sixth 2022 update as well as the AMA Guides Newsletter. AMA Guides updates are available exclusively on the digital platform.

The new digital format of the AMA Guides reduces physician burden by allowing easy and secure access to materials and ease of access and continual updates to improve the quality and consistency of evaluations.

AMA Guides Sixth 2022


Effective Jan. 1, 2022, AMA considers the updated AMA Guides Sixth 2022 the most recent edition of the AMA Guides and the most current version of AMA Guides Sixth. The update is based on the most current medicine as adopted by the AMA Guides Editorial Panel.

More than 40 states and several countries recognize the AMA Guides as the authority on evaluating permanent impairment and require raters in their jurisdiction to use the AMA Guides. Physicians and other qualified health care professionals who perform permanent impairment evaluations should review the state and jurisdictional requirements regarding use of AMA Guides Sixth 2022.
Summary of 2022 updates

The AMA Guides Sixth Edition (2008) is considered the foundation for updates to the AMA Guides, and all annual updates to the AMA Guides build upon the changes that precede them. AMA Guides Sixth 2022 builds upon the changes issued in AMA Guides Sixth 2021.

The 2022 update primarily focuses on the Conceptual Foundations and Philosophy and Practical Application of the AMA Guides material. Changes include a description of the new evidence-based editorial process, which describes the importance for physicians to use the most current evidence-based medicine and science to complete impairment ratings. Also, the need to appropriately document the evidence and the standard used to determine the impairment rating in reports has also been expounded upon. There are no changes to impairment ratings in AMA Guides Sixth 2022.

The AMA has developed resources to help stakeholders understand these changes in more detail. Learn more about the updates and what’s new to AMA Guides Sixth 2022. An education module that describes these changes and how to apply them is also available on the AMA Ed Hub™. Visit AMA Guides Education on the AMA Ed Hub™ to browse all learning.

AMA Guides Newsletter

The AMA Guides Newsletter provides updates, authoritative guidance and interpretations of rationales for those using the fourth, fifth and sixth editions of the AMA Guides®. It also features peer-reviewed articles on overarching topics and issues regarding disability evaluation.

More information on the AMA Guides

- Read about the AMA Guides Editorial Panel selection process
- Learn how to submit a proposal
- Register for an upcoming meeting
- Review and download documents from past meetings
- See the list of members of the AMA Guides Editorial Panel
- Review the FAQs
- Subscription information for AMA Guides Digital

If your organization would like to engage in a discussion with the AMA, please contact us at guidesproposals@ama-assn.org.


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