



AMA Guides® to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment

AMA Guides® are changing Q & A with Barry Gelinas, MD, DC



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[AMA Guides Sixth 2022](#) is the most current version of the AMA Guides and AMA Guides Sixth. Educational support is available through [AMA EdHub™](#). The AMA Guides are maintained exclusively online at [AMAGuidesDigital.com](#).

Why are the AMA Guides the gold standard for evaluating permanent impairment?

The American Medical Association is committed to equitable treatment of every patient with the best available medicine. The *AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment* incorporate science, evidence-based medicine and assessment tools to provide a rigorous methodology to enable physicians to provide a fair and consistent evaluation of patients who have suffered an illness or injury resulting in a permanent impairment. For more than half a century the AMA Guides have been the accepted authority on permanent impairment and are used by more than 40 states and several countries.

Why are updates necessary?

As new medical innovations become available, patient outcomes continue to improve, but not all areas of medicine evolve at the same pace. Consequently, equitable impairment evaluations require consistent use of the most current medicine.



How will the AMA assure fairness of updates?

A stakeholder-driven editorial process was created to ensure update transparency and to deliver annual enhancements to the AMA Guides reflecting current evidence-based medical practice. The Panel, which is comprised of 13 leading physicians and advanced practice professionals and five advisors, is focusing editorial priorities on areas where additional guidance is most needed. Publishing content on an annual cadence balances the importance of using the most current medicine with the needs of regulators and other key stakeholders.

What is the AMA doing to advance the usability of the AMA Guides?

The AMA delivered AMA Guides Digital to enable annual content updates and to allow effortless online access across computers, mobile phones and tablets. Users can quickly search, share, and bookmark content. This digital version will help stakeholders easily adopt the annual updates of the most current medicine in AMA Guides Sixth. The AMA also is offering education through AMA EdHub™ on annual changes to enable stakeholders to stay current.

What can I expect to change and how can I participate?

The AMA Guides Editorial Panel is accepting [change proposals](#) that align with the current editorial priorities – traumatic brain injury, upper extremities and psychological evaluation. If you would like to propose an update, contact the AMA Guides team at guidesproposals@ama-assn.org early in your proposal process. The Panel reviews all change proposals regardless of topic. Public comment periods open following acceptance of each update.

Can I be notified regarding upcoming AMA Guides Editorial Panel actions?

[Join our mailing list](#) to stay informed about virtual and in person Editorial Panel public meetings and to receive panel announcements.

More information on the AMA Guides

[Read about the evolution of the AMA Guides](#)

[Learn more about the 2022 update at AMA Ed Hub™](#)

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