



Workers' Injury Law & Advocacy Group

WILG is the national non-profit membership organization dedicated to representing the interests of millions of workers and their families who, each year, suffer the consequences of work-related injuries or occupational illnesses and who need expert legal assistance to obtain medical care and other relief under workers' compensation programs.

May 6, 2008

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 6th edition of the *AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (Guides)* claims to incorporate a "paradigm shift, which adopts a contemporary model of disablement";

WHEREAS, the claimed paradigm shift drastically changes the methodology for evaluating impairment from the prior 5th edition, in almost all cases resulting in lower values for the same impairment;

WHEREAS, the 6th edition essentially eliminates the role of pain in rating impairment;

WHEREAS, the 6th edition stresses the use of diagnosis-based impairment over the measure of functional loss in the chapters pertinent to evaluating musculoskeletal impairment; and changes values from previous editions with no evidence-based explanation;

WHEREAS, a rating methodology with new concepts and fundamentally changed results has been developed by a private, non-transparent organization with no public review of the process, thereby undermining its legitimacy;

WHEREAS, adoption of the 6th edition for evaluating impairment would create instability and uncertainty in workers' compensation systems;

WHEREAS, at this time four jurisdictions (Kentucky, Iowa, Tennessee and Vermont) have already taken steps to preclude implementation of the 6th edition for evaluating permanent impairment in their workers' compensation systems, and similar action is pending in other jurisdictions;

THEREFORE, the Workers' Injury Law & Advocacy Group hereby urges that all other jurisdictions refrain from adoption, or rescind adoption already in process, of the 6th edition of the *Guides* until such time as the AMA clearly identifies the changes made from the prior edition, and explains the rationale for the changes, and until jurisdictions utilizing the *Guides* can assess the impact of these changes on their workers' compensation systems.

Andrew J. Reinhardt, Secretary

Robert E. DeRose, II, President