

May 15, 2019

Important notice about impairment ratings for the spine

Beginning June 1, 2019, the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) is discontinuing the following worksheets in support of impairment ratings of the spine:

- *Doctor's Worksheet for Rating Cervical and Cervico-Dorsal Impairment*
- *Doctor's Worksheet for Rating Dorso-Lumbar and Lumbo-Sacral Impairment*

L&I will not accept the worksheets for exams conducted after May 31. If a rating report includes a discontinued worksheet, L&I will ask the provider to write an addendum based on the appropriate administrative code (WAC).

Worksheets were contributing to inaccuracy

Though the worksheets were created to simplify ratings, it became apparent over time that the worksheets were contributing to inaccuracy of ratings when compared to the rules.

L&I's Category Rating System for the spine remains unchanged

When identifying the most appropriate category of spinal impairment based on clinical findings, rating providers should [rely on language in the WACs](#). For your reference, we have included the regulatory language with this mailing.

For a description of what to include in impairment rating reports, please refer to the *Medical Examiners' Handbook* (MEH), chapters 11 and 12, and to Appendix A.

Questions?

Send impairment rating questions to ProviderFeedback@Lni.wa.gov

Please include "impairment rating" in the subject line.