

Independent Medical Examinations overview

Independent medical examiners

As part of the initial determination process or while managing an employee's accepted claim, you may need to arrange for an employee to be examined by a **legally qualified medical practitioner**. This may fall under section 57 (medical liability examinations) or section 36 (rehabilitation assessments) of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRC Act).

Independent medical examinations (IMEs) can provide important medical information to help manage a claim for compensation. However, there are important things to consider before scheduling an IME. This section of the manual explains the requirements and considerations around IMEs.

Roles and responsibilities

The rehabilitation authority, usually the Rehabilitation Case Manager, is responsible for arranging rehabilitation assessments in relation to the employee's capability to undertake a rehabilitation program under section 36 of the SRC Act.

The Claims Manager in consultation with the Injury Manager is responsible for scheduling medical examinations and managing the examination reports under section 57 of the SRC Act as part of their claims management responsibilities.

The Review Officer in consultation with the Assistant Director, Reconsiderations and/or the Director, Reconsiderations and Appeals is responsible for scheduling medical examinations as part of the reconsideration process.

In this section

Gathering claim information

- ✓ Employees

- ✓ Employers

- ✓ Requesting information from medical and allied health practitioners

- ✓ Independent medical examiners

- ✓ Clinical panel

Independent medical examinations

This page sets out the information you need to know to decide when to arrange an independent medical examination. It also includes:

- the [reasons for arranging IMEs](#)
- [requiring an examination](#)
- [factors to consider prior to arranging the IME](#)
- [seeking the employee's views](#)

- the qualifications of medical practitioners
- other factors to be considered
- IME providers
- notice of determination
- reconsideration on own motion
- the frequency and number of IMEs
- medical examination documentation
- support persons and interpreters
- costs and cancellations
- claiming incapacity to attend an IME
- injuries sustained at an IME
- complaints
- procedure for referring an employee for an IME
- procedure for actioning IME reports
- report summary for the employer
- report requests and releasing reports
- combined medical and rehabilitation examinations

- non-attendance, and
- procedure for actioning non-attendance or obstruction at an IME.