

Section Title: Benefits Administration – *Healthcare Services*  
 Subject: Independent Medical Examinations  
 Effective Date: January 1, 2002

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#### **A. POLICY PURPOSE**

Occasionally, the WCB or the Appeal Commission may wish to seek clarification of a medical matter without convening a Medical Review Panel. When this is the case, the WCB or the Appeal Commission may arrange for an Independent Medical Examination (IME).

#### **B. POLICY**

1. In any case before it, the WCB or Appeal Commission may, at its discretion, convene an independent medical examination (IME). The WCB or Appeal Commission will determine the special discipline of the medical matter to be considered.
2. When arranging for an IME, the WCB or Appeal Commission will obtain a list of physicians especially skilled in the medical matter to be considered from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba and select a physician from that list.
3. When the WCB or Appeal Commission considers that an IME should be conducted outside Manitoba, it will contact the appropriate licensing body in the other jurisdiction for a list of physicians especially skilled in the medical matter to be considered and select a physician from that list.
4. Any physician who has examined or treated the worker, examines workers on behalf of the employer, or has acted as a consultant in the treatment of the worker shall be considered ineligible to conduct the IME.
5. The WCB or Appeal Commission will select physicians from the list on a rotating basis subject to availability and eligibility.

#### **C. REFERENCES**

*The Workers Compensation Act, sections 21(1), 27(1) and 27(10)*

#### **History:**

1. Policy 42.20.20.10 established April 24, 1989, by Board Order 66/89, effective April 24, 1989.
2. Policy amended by Board Order 15/02 on May 30, 2002, effective January 1, 2002, to continue the use of IMEs to clarify/resolve medical matters but in a less formal manner.
3. Minor formatting and grammatical changes were made to the policy and the policy title was clarified, June 27, 2012.
4. Minor formatting changes were made to the policy February 2021.