



**WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
(C) TASK FORCE**

**Sunday, November 17, 2024  
11:30 – 12:30 a.m. (Mountain Time)  
Denver, CO**

# Consider Adoption of the Task Force's October 23 and August 8 Minutes

Draft: 10/24/24

Workers' Compensation (C) Task Force  
E-Vote  
October 23, 2024

The Workers' Compensation (C) Task Force conducted an e-vote that concluded Oct. 23, 2024. The following Task Force members participated: Alan McClain, Chair (AR); John F. King, Vice Chair, represented by Steve Manders (GA); Lori K. Wing-Heier represented by Sian Ng-Ashcraft (AK); Mark Fowler represented by Erick Wright (AL); Ricardo Lara represented by Mitra Sanandajifar (CA); Andrew N. Mais represented by George Bradner (CT); Doug Ommen represented by Mathew Cunningham (IA); Vicki Schmidt represented by Julie Holmes (KS); Sharon P. Clark (KY); Kevin P. Beagan represented by Jackie Horigan (MA); Robert L. Carey represented by Sandra Darby (ME); Grace Arnold represented by Tammy Lohmann (MN); Chlora Lindley-Myers (MO); Scott Kipper (NV); Glen

Draft: 10/24/24

*Adopted by the Executive (EX) Committee and Plenary, Dec. \_\_, 2024*  
*Adopted by the [Insert name of the parent committee], Nov. \_\_, 2024*  
*Adopted by the Workers' Compensation (C) Task Force], Oct. 23, 2024*

## **2025 Proposed Charges**

### **WORKERS' COMPENSATION (C) TASK FORCE**

The mission of the Workers' Compensation (C) Task Force is to study the nature and effectiveness of state approaches to workers' compensation and related issues, including, but not limited to: assigned risk plans; safety in the workplace; treatment of investment income in rating; occupational disease; cost cont





## Draft Pending Adoption

Eddinger said different areas of the country have different extreme weather exposures. He said workers in 2023 experienced hotter temperatures than usual. NCCI compared claims to an average weather baseline. In the study, temperature included both extreme heat and extreme cold and the impact of precipitation was also considered.

Eddinger said the study showed that injuries on hot days increased as the temperature increased. He said injuries on cold days do not necessarily have the same linear relationship. On cold days, injuries tend to peak at temperatures around freezing. Precipitation impact

Hear a Presentat on about the



# Navigating the Changes: AMA Guides® Updates for Stakeholders

## **Ken Eichler**

American Medical Association  
Director, AMA Guides Advocacy  
Health Solutions

## **Douglas Martin, MD**

FACOEM, FAAFP, FIAIME  
Co-Chair, AMA Guides Editorial Panel  
ACOEM Past President

November 17, 2024

NAIC Workers Compensation Task Force

# Today's AMA Guides Presenters



**Ken Eichler**  
*Director, AMA Guides Advocacy*  
American Medical Association  
Health Solutions



**J. Douglas Martin, MD**  
FACOEM, FAAFP, FIAIME  
Co-Chair, AMA Guides Editorial Panel  
*Medical Director, CNOS*  
*ACOEM Past President*



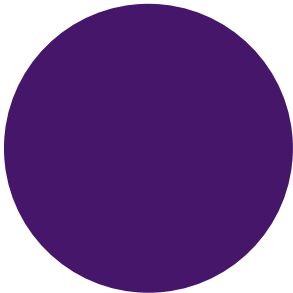








# Consistency Across Stakeholders





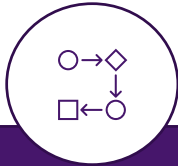
# AMA Guides<sup>®</sup> to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment 6<sup>th</sup> Edition 2024

By engaging the community of practice, the AMA Guides Editorial Panel process now incorporates:

- Best available science and evidence-based medicine
- Reflection of medical advances and new insights related to impairment
- Assessment tools to provide a rigorous methodology
- Fair, consistent and reproducible evaluation processes

# AMA Guides® 6<sup>th</sup> Edition 2024

## Support Standardized Methodology for Objectively Assessing Permanent Impairment Ratings



An impairment rating is often **one component** of a complex determination and compensation calculation.



AMA Guides are an assessment and rating **tool affording fair and equitable objective standards** for evaluating individuals with **incident-related injuries**.



Conversion of ratings using the AMA Guides to financial or other values is a **Jurisdictional matter**.

# AMA Guides® Sixth Edition 2024 Content Revision Processes





# AMA Guides Sixth – Content Update History\*



# AMA Guides 2024 MSK Development

- AMA Guides Sixth 2008 was used as a base to start the editing process
- Feedback from various stakeholders was considered
- The *Guides* Panel initiated musculoskeletal (MSK) subcommittees in August 2022 to review the upper limb, lower limb, and spine and pelvis chapters
- Integration of the latest advancements in medical diagnosis, treatment methods, and patient outcomes

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# AMA Guides<sup>®</sup> Sixth Edition 2024 Content Revisions









# Highlights for 2024 Musculoskeletal (MSK)

- The diagnostic row - diagnosis-based impairment (DBI) approach is consistent with the Sixth Edition 2008.
- The Guides Sixth Edition 2024 has been designed to standardize and simplify the diagnosis-based impairment rating process.
- Standardization improves content validity, and intra-rater and inter-rater reliability and agreement
  - fair and equitable impairment ratings based on a confirmed and clinically relevant diagnosis (DX) at the point of maximum medical improvement (MMI).

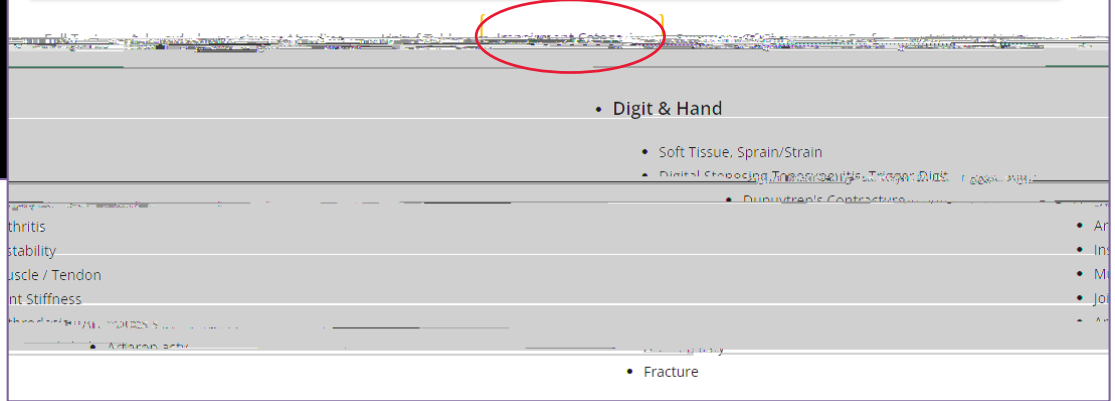
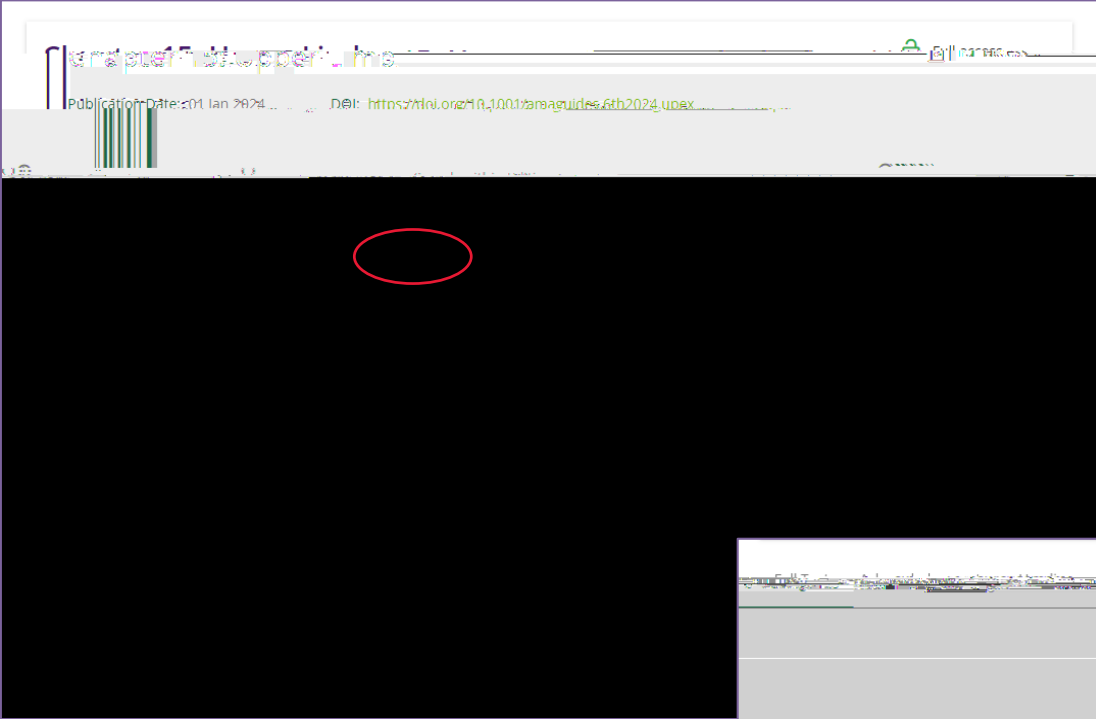






# Optimizing Functionality

## List of Tables and Impairment Categories



# Assessing the Transition from AMA Impairment Guides Sixth Edition 2008 to Sixth Edition 2024





**Open-Access Article** available on JOEM compares methodological improvements between AMA Guides Sixth 2008 and 2024 Musculoskeletal Chapters.

**Key insights include:**

- 2024 methods allow for more-efficient impairment ratings while retaining accuracy, consistency, reliability, and reproducibility.
- Intuitive impairment assessment process reduces training burden and improves implementation.
- Potential for cost-benefit savings to the workers' compnti2BDC q0 0 76.Pn(w



**Open-Access Article** available on JOEM evaluates how ratings are



# Study Implications for “the System” ....(continued)

- Evaluators can accurately assign the correct diagnostic row, class, grade, and impairment value in the DBI table by:
  - Thoroughly assessing the specific individual elements (SIEs) derived from

# AMA Guides Resources



# AMA Guides® Digital Product Offerings

[amaguidesdigital.com](https://amaguidesdigital.com)

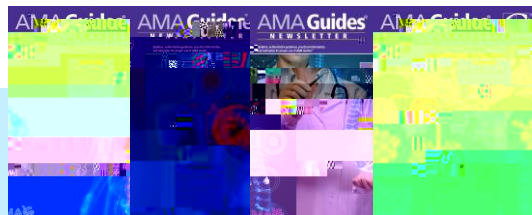


## AMA Guides® to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, Sixth Edition – Digital Access

Strengthen your regulatory framework with the AMA Guides Sixth 2024. This latest edition fine-tunes the concepts from the AMA Guides Sixth (2008), ensuring enhanced inter- and intra-impairment rater reliability.

The digital platform access offers:

- AMA Guides Sixth 2008, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 (July Release)
- AMA Guides Fifth
- AMA Guides Fourth
- Complete *AMA Guides Newsletter* Archive



## AMA Guides® Newsletter Full Archive 1996 to Present

Get the latest developments on the proper use of the AMA Guides in assessing impairments, work ability, causation, and other case issues with the *AMA Guides Newsletter*. It also features peer-reviewed articles on overarching topics and issues regarding disability evaluation.

A subscription includes one year access to the most recent six issues as well as all archived issues dating back to the inaugural September/October 1996 issue.



## AMA Guides® Newsletter 6 Issues/One Year

Stay updated with the newest advancements in the application of the AMA Guides for assessing impairments, work ability, causation, and other case-related issues through the *AMA Guides Newsletter* yearly subscription, includes one year of access to the six most recent issues.

## What we have discussed today:

- The latest medical advancements and evidence-based updates to spine, upper and lower extremity impairments
- Insights into ensuring consistency and fairness
- The benefits of a streamlined grading system
- How to simplify the evaluation process

# Questions?

# Contact the AMA Guides Team

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**Ron Caperton**

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[amaguides@z.ama-assn.org](mailto:amaguides@z.ama-assn.org)





Any Other Matters Brought  
before the Task Force