

## Impairment Evaluation Request Form

GENERAL INFORMATION	
From the desk of:	Organization
Individual	Date of Birth
Claim Number	Date of Injury

We appreciate you providing an accurate, unbiased impairment rating based on the *AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, Sixth Edition*. The final impairment rating should be expressed as a whole person impairment.

Please obtain the need clinical data (e.g., history, physical examination, imaging studies, other studies and diagnosis) and follow the processes specified in the *AMA Guides*. Please verify that the data upon which you base your evaluation is valid and reliable, and follow all the requirements provided in the *Guides*. If you are performing an independent medical evaluation, please follow established best practices as published by the AMA in the *Guides Newsletter* in September – October 2017 (attached). Please follow the guidance provided in Chapters 1 and 2 and the applicable chapters.

To assist you in the rating process, we are providing you with the probable Section that you will be using based on the diagnosis, as well as the specific Criteria and a summary of the Rating Process. We recognize that other sections and/or criteria may be applicable.

### Diagnosis

The following is the diagnosis per our records and we understand that based on your evaluation it is possible this diagnosis may change.

Back Sprain
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### Average Corrected Impairment Rating for this Diagnosis

The following rating value reflects the average impairment rating seen for the above diagnosis. We recognize that actual impairment rating in this case may be less or more based on the specifics of the clinical findings. Do not use this as the basis for the rating, rather provide us with your independent rating.

2% whole person
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### Section

The following are the Section(s) commonly used in providing an impairment rating for this diagnosis. Your evaluation may require the use of other Section(s) and, if so, we request that you explain how these Section(s) are applicable.

Section 17.2 Diagnosis-Based Impairment (560-566), Section 17.3 Adjustment Grids and Grade Modifiers: Non-Key Factors (566-592)
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## Criteria

The following are the Criteria (Figures, Tables, etc.) commonly used in providing an impairment rating for this diagnosis. Your evaluation may require the use of other criteria and, if so, we request that you explain the use of these criteria.

Table 17-4 Lumbar Spine Regional Grid: Spine Impairments (570-573), Table 17-5 Adjustment Grid: Summary (575), Table 17-6 Functional History Adjustment: Spine (575), Table 17-7 Physical Examination Adjustment: Spine (576), Table 17-9 Clinical Studies Adjustment: Spine (581)

## Rating Process

The following summarize the rating process for this diagnosis. However, you should follow the specific procedures as stated in the *Guides*. It is imperative that you fully explain how you assessed any impairment.

Accurately define diagnosis, including significance and consistency of clinical findings, presence of causally-related disk herniation(s), and/or alteration of motion segment integrity. Objectify the presence or absence of radiculopathy. Most ratings are for non-specific spinal pain. Need to discern if Class 0 or Class 1 assignment. Maximum impairment for Class 1 is 3% WPI. Assure accuracy of adjustment factors, net adjustment calculation, and grade modification. Figure 17-2 (561) summarizes findings.

## Video Presentation of Rating Process

The following is a link to a presentation on how to assess impairment for this diagnosis. We hope that you find this helpful

<https://vimeo.com/175782369/caded212cd>

## Common Errors to Avoid

The following are impairment evaluation errors that may be seen with this diagnosis. They are provided to you so that these errors are avoided.

Inaccurate clinical assessment resulting in wrong Class assignment. Rating for more than diagnosis in region. Unreliable functional history, physical examination findings or clinical studies. Adjusting for physical examination or clinical studies findings when same information used for Class assignment.

Thank you for providing an accurate, unbiased assessments of impairment. If you need any additional information and/or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We review reports to assure they are compliant with the standards provided in the *AMA Guides*. Thank you for your assistance.