

## Solutions to Fall 2021 PPD Breakout Session Problems

### Points to consider:

Is this a **scheduled or unscheduled** injury?

What is the **number of weeks** associated with the injured body part?

Does a **statutory minimum rating** apply to this injury / surgery?

Are there any **other elements of disability**?

Is there a **prior disability** to deduct?

Is there a **multiplier or stacking** that applies?

PPD weeks of payment = (# of weeks for body part) X (% disability rated by doctor)

PPD total payment = (PPD weeks of payment) X (PPD rate based on wage)

Monthly rate = (weekly rate) X 4.3333

- #1. R rotator cuff surgical repair  
Doctor rates 5%
- Scheduled injury  
Shoulder = 500 weeks  
No stat min, unless lost range of motion is documented  
Which ranges of motion are considered for stat min shoulder ratings? F Flex and Abduct
- No added elements  
Nothing to add or subtract  
Doctor's rating is good  
 $5\% \times 500 \text{ weeks} = 25 \text{ weeks}$
- #2 L anterior cruciate ligament surgical repair  
Doctor rates 10%
- Scheduled injury  
Knee = 425 weeks  
Stat min = 10%  
No added elements  
Nothing to add or subtract  
Doctor's rating is good  
 $10\% \times 425 \text{ weeks} = 42.5 \text{ weeks}$   
Send the operative report
- #3 Lumbar laminectomy and fusion at L4-5  
Permanent lifting restrictions  
Doctor rates 12%
- Unscheduled injury  
Back (body as a whole) = 1000 weeks  
Stat min = 10%  
Other element of disability (lifting restrictions) present  
Nothing to add or subtract  
 $10\% \times 1000 \text{ weeks} = 100 \text{ weeks}$   
Doctor's rating is good  $12\% \times 1000 \text{ weeks} = 120 \text{ weeks}$ , which is greater than stat min  
Send the operative report
- #4 20% loss of flexion at R index finger MCP joint and total loss of R index finger sensation  
Doctor rates 50% at R index finger MCP joint
- Scheduled injury  
Index finger = 12 weeks @ DIP, 30 weeks at PIP and 50 weeks at MCP joint  
Stat min for lost motion = 10%, stat min for total loss of sensation = 50% at MCP  
Is there a dominant hand multiplier? No, as no amputation or 100% loss of use  
Nothing else to add or subtract  
Doctor's rating is low, and will be adjusted up by DWD WC to 60%  
 $10\% \times 50 \text{ weeks} = 5 \text{ weeks}$ , AND  $50\% \times 50 \text{ weeks} = 25 \text{ weeks}$ , Total = 30 weeks

#5 Ankle sprain with 66% loss of L ankle dorsiflexion  
Associated complex regional pain syndrome and weakness  
Doctor rates 10% @ L ankle

Scheduled injury  
Ankle = 250 weeks  
Stat min for total loss of dorsiflexion is 15%, and for 66% loss is 10%  
Other elements of disability (complex regional pain syndrome and weakness) present  
Nothing else to add or subtract  
Doctor's rating is low. It does not account for CRPS or weakness. DWD WC will write  
 $10\% \times 250 \text{ weeks} = 25 \text{ weeks}$

#6 Amputation above the right knee  
Doctor rates 50% at R hip

Scheduled injury  
Stat min for amputation  
Entire knee is gone = 425 weeks, Value of hip = 500 weeks  
No other elements  
Nothing to add or subtract  
Doctor's rating is low  
 $425 + \frac{1}{2} \text{ or } 50\% \text{ of difference between } 425 \text{ and } 500 \text{ weeks} = \text{additional } 37.5 \text{ weeks}$   
 $425 + 37.5 = 462.5 \text{ weeks}$

#7 Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)  
Doctor rates 2%

Unscheduled injury  
Mental disorders (body as a whole) = 1000 weeks  
No stat min  
No other elements  
Nothing to add or subtract  
Doctor's rating is good  
 $2\% \times 1000 \text{ weeks} = 20 \text{ weeks}$

#8 R medial meniscectomy and R wrist injury (both with pain and weakness)  
Doctor rates 10% at R knee and 2% at R wrist

2 scheduled injuries  
Knee = 425 weeks, Wrist = 400 weeks  
Stat min for meniscectomy = 5% (doctor rated more)  
No stat min for wrist pain or weakness  
No other elements  
Doctor's rating is good  
Lesser injury multiplier  
 $10\% \times 425 \text{ weeks} = 42.5 \text{ weeks}$   
 $2\% \times 400 \text{ weeks} = 8 \text{ weeks}$   
 $20\% \times 8 \text{ weeks} = 1.6 \text{ weeks}$   
Total weeks =  $42.5 + 8 + 1.6 = 52.1 \text{ weeks}$

- #9 R medical meniscectomy and ACL repair surgery  
 Subsequent R total knee arthroplasty (attributed to original injury)  
 Doctor rates 65% at R knee
- Scheduled injuries  
 Knee = 425 weeks  
 Stat min for meniscectomy = 5%, for ACL repair = 10%, for total knee = 50%  
 Ratings are "stacked" together (5 + 10 + 50 = 65)  
 No other elements  
 Doctor's rating is good  
 $(5\% \times 425) + (10\% \times 425) + (50\% \times 425) = 21.25 + 42.5 + 212.5 = 276.25$  weeks
- If 15% already paid, then remaining 50% = 212.5 weeks now need to be paid  
 What if a second total knee replacement surgery became necessary? 100%  
 What other procedures are stacked? Spine and joint replacement surgeries
- What if the first knee replacement is attributed to a new, unrelated injury?  
 Prior 15% can then be deducted from the current value of the knee  
 IC must present documentation supporting prior rating and request deduction  
 $425 - 63.75 = 361.25$  weeks  
 then 50% applied to the remaining weeks
- With requested deduction  $50\% \times 361.25 = 180.625$  weeks
- #10 Work exposure to Covid-19  
 Long hauler with residual breathing difficulties and loss of smell (anosmia)  
 Doctor rates 2% PTD
- Unscheduled injuries  
 Body as a whole = 1000 weeks  
 Per 80.32(14) stat min for lost sense of smell = 2.5%  
 Doctor's rating is too low  
 Not final rating for loss of smell  $2.5\% \times 1000 = 25$  weeks  
 then letter asking doctor to rate disability (if any) for breathing difficulties
- #11 Prior amputation of L thumb interphalangeal joint (R hand dominant)  
 New injury to L shoulder  
 Doctor rates 10% at L shoulder
- Scheduled injuries  
 Thumb DIP joint = 50 weeks  
 Shoulder = 500 weeks  
 Stat min for prior amputation = 50 weeks  
 No other elements  
 Doctor's rating is good, but weeks for thumb can be deducted from weeks for shoulder  
 Current value of shoulder:  $500 \text{ weeks} - 50 \text{ weeks} = 450 \text{ weeks}$
- With requested deduction  $10\% \times 450 \text{ weeks} = 45 \text{ weeks}$   
 Pre-existing disability must be documented by IC  
 Pre-existing conditions (arthritis) are not disabilities, so will not be deducted

#12 Lumbar laminectomy at L4-5  
Redo lumbar decompression and fusion at L4-5  
Associated foot drop at L ankle requiring ankle foot orthosis  
Doctor rates 12%

Unscheduled and scheduled injuries

Body as a whole = 1000 weeks

Stat min for spinal surgery: laminectomy/decompression 5% each, fusion 5% (15% total)

Stat min for foot drop: 25% (rated at knee)

Doctor's rating is low: 25% @ knee, 25% x 425 weeks = 106.25 weeks,

1000 weeks – 106.25 weeks = 893.75 weeks

5% + 5% + 5% = 15%, 15% X 893.75 weeks = 134.1 weeks

Multiplier for lesser knee injury = 106.25 X 20% = 21.25

134.1 weeks + 106.25 weeks + 21.25 = 261.6 weeks

#13 Prior R hip resurfacing  
New cervical laminectomies at C5-6 and C6-7  
Doctor rates 10%

Scheduled and unscheduled injuries

Hip = 500 weeks

Body as a whole = 1000 weeks

Stat min for hip resurfacing = 35%

Stat min for cervical laminectomies = 5% each (10% total)

Deduction for prior injury: 35% X 500 weeks = 175 weeks

New value of body as a whole: 1000 weeks – 175 weeks = 825 weeks

No other elements

Doctor's rating is good, but deduction can be requested

With requested deduction 10% X 825 weeks = 82.5 weeks

- #14a Amputations of dominant R index finger 50% of middle phalanx and R middle finger 50% of distal phalanx  
Doctor rates 50% @ R index finger PIP joint, and 80% @ R middle finger DIP joint

Scheduled injuries

Index Finger DIP = 12 weeks, PIP = 30 weeks, and MCP = 50 weeks

Index ½ middle phalanx: 12 weeks (lost DIP) + ½ or 50% of 18 weeks for PIP = 9 weeks

Subtotal = 12 + 9 = 21 weeks

Stat min for amputation ½ of distal phalanx = 80%, 80% X 8 weeks (middle) = 6.4 weeks

Multiplier for lesser distal middle finger injury = 6.4 x 100% = additional 6.4 weeks

Subtotal = 21 + 6.4 + 6.4 = 33.8 weeks

Dominant hand multiplier = 25% (at least 100% at a joint, do not multiply multipliers!)

21 weeks X 25% = 5.25 weeks

Total = 33.8 weeks + 5.25 weeks = 39.05 weeks

No other elements

Doctor's rating is not adequate. Amputations must be documented.

Pay stat min for amputations pending receipt of DWD worksheet with multipliers.

- #14b In addition to above amputations, 10 degrees of lost flexion at the index finger PIP joint, and 35 degrees of lost flexion + 7 degrees of lost extension at the middle finger DIP joint  
Doctor rates 90% @ R index finger, and 100% at R middle finger DIP joint

Scheduled injuries

Index Finger DIP = 12 weeks, PIP = 30 weeks, and MCP = 50 weeks

Index ½ middle phalanx: 12 weeks (lost DIP) + ½ of 18 weeks for amp = 9 weeks

Lost motion at PIP + 5% of remaining 9 weeks and 20% multiplier for this lesser injury

Index Finger Subtotal = 12 + 9 + .45 + .09 = 21.54 weeks

Middle Finger Stat min for amp ½ of distal phalanx = 80% +

Lost motion at DIP (50% flex = 10% + 10% ext = 2%) = total 12%

Subtotal = (80% X 8 weeks) + (12% of remaining 1.6 weeks) = 6.4 + .19 = 6.59 weeks

Multiplier for lesser distal middle finger injury = 6.59 x 100% = additional 6.59 weeks

Subtotal = 21.54 + 6.59 + 6.59 = 34.72 weeks

Dominant hand multiplier = 25% (at least 100% at a joint, do not multiply multipliers!)

21 weeks X 25% = 5.25 weeks

Total = 34.72 weeks + 5.25 weeks = 39.97 weeks

No other elements

Doctor's rating is good: (90% X 50 weeks) + (100% X 8 weeks) = 45 + 8 = 53

53 weeks is greater than stat min 39.97 weeks

Pay stat min for amputations pending receipt of DWD worksheet with multipliers.