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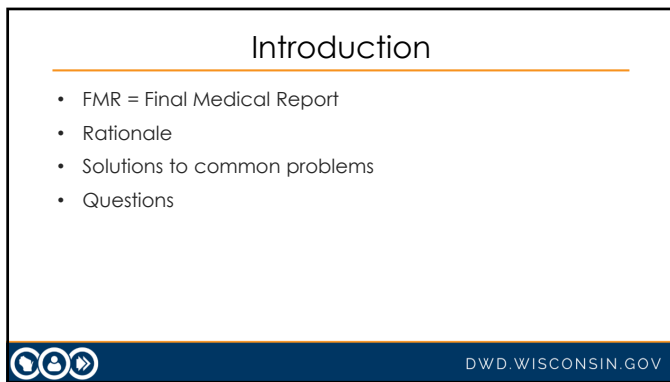
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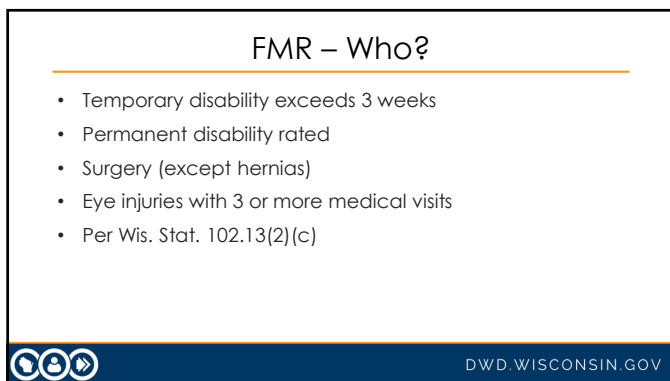
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### FMR – Why?

Rating = Compensation for disability related to injury.

- State requirement
- In setting of Independent Medical Examination (IME)
  - Average ratings
  - Helps with dispute resolution
- Verification of benefits owed by statute (if any)



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### FMR – When?

- End of Healing (EOH)
- Maximum Medical Improvement (MMI)
- Dies before EOH



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### FMR – What? (Necessary Elements)

- Diagnosis
- Date of injury
- Percentage rated for disability described
- End of healing and discharged
- Restrictions
- Signed and dated by MD, DO, DC, or PsyD



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## FMR – Necessary Details

- For surgery:
  - Send operative report.
  - Pay what you know.
- For fingers:
  - Range of motion.
  - CD/DVD or USB stick of x-rays if amputation greater than ⅓ of the distal phalanx.
    - Hand dominance required.
- No AMA Guidelines for scheduled injuries.



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Medical Report on Industrial Injury

WKC-16



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Physician's Report on Eye Injuries

WKC-16-A



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### Commonly Encountered Problems

- Opinion of unauthorized clinician.
- Disability described but not rated, or rating does not meet statutory requirements.
- FMR missing one or more required elements.
- Additional required documentation.
- Doctor unresponsive to FMR request or unavailable.
- Patient does not return to doctor for assessment.



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### Unauthorized Clinician

- Signed by Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), physician assistant-certified (PA-C), dentist, counselor.
- Acceptable if MD, DO, DC, or PsyD co-signs.



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### Disability Described but Not Rated

- Surgery with statutory minimum rating.
- Decreased range of motion.
- Permanent restrictions.
- Other elements of disability: **If present, shall result in a higher estimate!**
  - Pain
  - Weakness
  - Activity limitation
  - Altered sensation
  - Unstable grafts



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### FMR Missing Required Elements

- Check box form missing one or more required elements.
- End of healing box was not checked.
- Disability was not assigned to a body part.
- Extent of amputation.
- Rating of scheduled disability uses AMA Guides to Impairment.



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### Additional Required Documentation

- Operative reports for stat min surgeries.
- TTD payment when no lost time beyond 3-day waiting period.
- X-rays for significant finger amputations.
- IME sent without final medical report.
- IME supplemental report sent without original IME report.
- IME sent without position letter (unless paying average).



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### Doctor Unresponsive or Unavailable

- No response to three or more timely requests for FMR.
- Doctor refuses to complete FMR:
  - "I don't do disability ratings"
  - Injured worker did not return
  - Injured worker still treating
- Doctor moved or no longer practicing.
  - Deferred opinion



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### Common Procurement Problems



- Employee does not attend final evaluation.
- Denial letter following IME.
- No timely response from providers.



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### Getting Help: Forms GL-15 and GL-10

- GL-15
  - Sent when the insurer provides DWD with three or more written requests to the treating provider to get a final medical after EOH is reached with them.
  - We require treating provider's name and address to send this form.
- GL-10
  - Sent to injured worker when the provider doesn't respond to DWD or when claimant is lost to follow-up.
- 60-day internal follow-up for both forms.



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### Uncommon Procurement Issues

- Refusal to attend IME
- Out of state treatment
- Treatment for injuries not work-related
- Incarceration
- Missing claimants



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### Refusal to Attend IME

- Immediately let us know after the first no-show.
- If a no-show for the second scheduled IME, contact us and ask an ALJ to compel attendance.
- Benefits cannot be suspended until an ALJ approves.



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### Out of State Treatment

- Claimant and MD must be educated on basics of Wisconsin worker's compensation.
- If you will not authorize care, help the claimant to secure a referral from their Wisconsin MD.
- MD may not understand claim jurisdiction.
- We will not close an out-of-state claim without a remarkable effort to secure FMR.
- Out of country: call for immediate help.



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### Treating for Other Injuries

- Injuries not work-related may keep MD from declaring EOH for work injury.
- These claims cannot be closed and reopened later.
- Keep us informed of treatment progress so we have something on file.
- Due dates will always be pushed out if we have proof of ongoing treatment.



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### Incarceration

- Approached the same way as if treating for another injury.
- Tell us immediately so we can push out the due date.
- Mail the claimant a letter saying the follow-up visit and mileage will be paid.
- Staff of correctional facility not accepted for final medical report.



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### Missing Claimants

- When PPD is known, these funds must still be paid; insurers cannot hold.
- Inform us immediately and:
  - Mail a letter to claimant's last known address asking for contact.
  - Mail a letter to any known dependents or employer asking for contact.
  - CC all letters to us.



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### Missing Claimants (cont.)

- If whereabouts still unknown, contact Dept. of Revenue to pay the Unclaimed Property Fund.
- Submit a WKC-13 to show payment.



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### Additional Tips

- Use the Pending Reports system to update the medical report expected due by date.
  - Do not tell us via WKC-13 notes.
- Review the medical sent for the necessary elements needed to close a claim - a WKC-16 may not be required.
- Timely issue PPD payments to avoid surcharges and/or a delay audit.
- If you are not sure about how to handle a particular claim, give us a call!



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### Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Worker's Compensation Division

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