



**Workers'  
Compensation  
Board**

June 13, 2019

# IME Committee

Cost of IME Discussion

# IME Advisory Committee

## Proposed Schedule

- IME Provider Access – *Thursday, March 14*
- Scheduling & Timing – *Tuesday, April 9*
- Injured Worker Experience – *Wednesday, May 8*
- Cost of IMEs and IME Entity Panel ← *Thursday, June 13*
- Quality of Reports – *Tuesday, July 9*
- Process – *Wednesday, August 7*
- Fraud & Abuse – *Tuesday, September 10*
- Review & Discuss Report – *Thursday, October 10*
- Draft Report – *Wednesday, November 13*
- Final Report – *Thursday, December 12*

# Agenda & Topics for Cost of IMEs

Agenda Topic	Time Allocation
Cost of IMEs	75 minutes
Costs for Specialty IMEs	
Cancellation / No-Show Fees	
Payment for precluded IME reports	
Out of State Fees	
Break	15 minutes
IME Entity Presentation about IME Process	60 minutes
IME Entity Panel Q&A	
Wrap-up and Overview of June meeting	

# Cost of IMEs

## Survey Findings

- The cost of an IME varies significantly by specialty type, and, even within specialties, there is a wide range
- Carriers do not pay for no-shows just over half of the time.
- When carriers do pay for no-shows, the average payment is approximately \$204.

# Range of IME Payments by Specialty (2014-2016)

Specialty Type	Average IME Payment	Minimum Payment	Maximum Payment
Occupational Medicine	\$1,686	\$300	\$11,675
Dermatology	\$1,214	\$550	\$5,245
Psychology	\$1,001	\$120	\$13,424
Neurological Surgery	\$973	\$125	\$13,125
Otolaryngology	\$933	\$150	\$5,810
Anesthesiology	\$860	\$110	\$3,200
Internal Medicine	\$822	\$125	\$10,045
Physical Medicine / Rehabilitation	\$810	\$125	\$6,058
Ophthalmology	\$760	\$125	\$2,850
Neurology and Psychiatry	\$751	\$110	\$6,400
Surgery	\$751	\$175	\$5,000
Podiatry	\$582	\$125	\$2,545
Orthopedic Surgery	\$523	\$105	\$7,600
Chiropractic	\$396	\$110	\$2,100
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$571</b>		

# No-Show Payments (2014-2016)

Payments	All Carriers
\$0	50.88%
\$1-100	24.24%
\$101-250	14.37%
More than \$250	10.51%
Average Payment	\$204

# High/Low Volume Providers

IME Range (Total completed)	Total Providers		Total IMEs Performed		Payment	
	#	%	#	%	Average	Median
1-5 IMEs	2,889	70.7%	5,130	1.3%	\$1,201	\$975
6-100 IMEs	860	21.0%	20,152	5.1%	\$894	\$720
101-500 IMEs	173	4.2%	39,688	10.0%	\$702	\$595
501-1000 IMEs	63	1.5%	44,087	11.1%	\$593	\$495
1001-5000 IMEs	94 <sup>(a)</sup>	2.3	221,551	56.0%	\$511	\$450
5001-9000 IMEs	10 <sup>(b)</sup>	0.20%	65,105	16.5%	\$443	\$400

(a) 76 providers out of 94 = Orthopedic Surgery specialty

(b) All providers = Orthopedic Surgery specialty

# IME Costs by Carriers

Average Payment Range	% of Carriers
\$100-\$300	7.05%
\$301-\$500	18.79%
\$501-\$700	31.21%
\$701-\$900	25.50%
\$900+	17.45%
Combined Average Payment	\$571

# IME Costs by Service Location (NYS Only)

County Name	Total IMEs Performed <sup>1</sup>	Min	Max	Average Payment	Median Payment
Bronx	20,291	\$103	\$5,845	\$451	\$395
New York	29,960	\$105	\$13,125	\$463	\$325
Kings	34,596	\$110	\$5,245	\$456	\$400
Queens	38,060	\$105	\$4,245	\$441	\$395
Richmond	10,630	\$115	\$4,750	\$541	\$445
Long Island	57,667	\$110	\$7,600	\$460	\$395
<b>Downstate Subtotal</b>	<b>191,204</b>	<b>\$103</b>	<b>\$13,125</b>	<b>\$460</b>	<b>\$395</b>
<b>Upstate Subtotal</b>	<b>130,912</b>	<b>\$110</b>	<b>\$13,270</b>	<b>\$676</b>	<b>\$600</b>
<b>Statewide Total</b>	<b>322,116</b>	<b>\$103</b>	<b>\$13,270</b>	<b>\$547</b>	<b>\$463</b>

<sup>1</sup>For IME only. Excludes records reviews.

# IME Fees State-by-State

Handout 1 – IAIABC Study: Billing and Payment

Handout 2 – States With A Fee Schedule or Other Price Controls

# Discussion

- Cost for Specialty IMEs
- IME fee schedule?
- Cancellation/No-Show fees?
- Costs for precluded IMEs
- Out of State fees

# Consensus on topic?

# 15-minute break

# IME Process & IME Entity Panel

Brookside Consultants

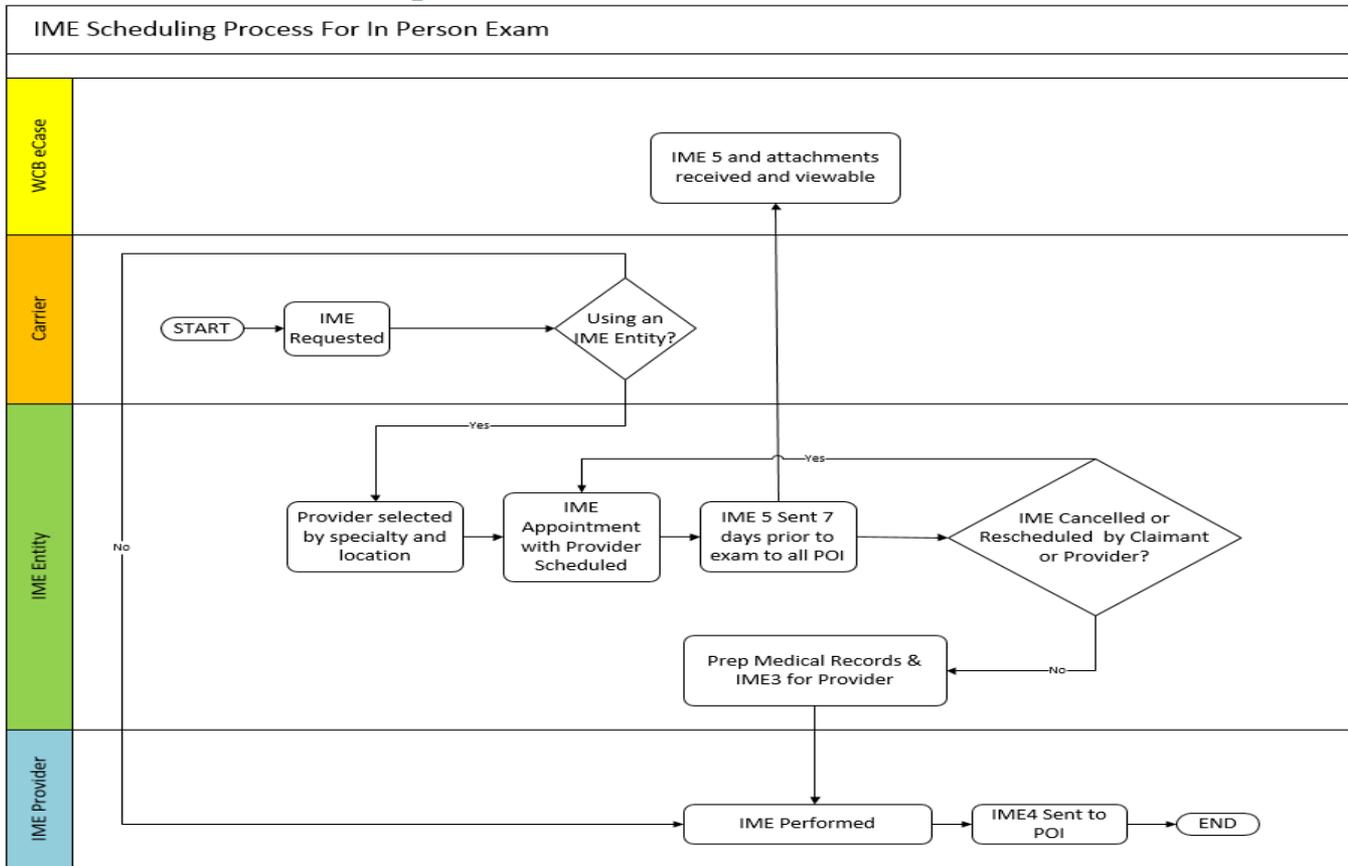
ExamWorks Evaluations of NY

Genex Consultants



**Workers'  
Compensation  
Board**

# IME Process: In-person Exam



# IME Process Statistics: Responses

Status	Count
Submitted response describing IME process	55
Advised: no longer do WC IMEs	7
Plan to do WC IMEs in future	4
Pending complete response	3
No response	4
Total	73

# IME Process Statistics: Services

Service Offered	% Yes	% No
Arrange office space	49%	51%
Administrative support	42%	58%
Call reminders	92%	8%
Quality assurance	96%	4%
Transcription	62%	38%
Language Access	96%	4%
Transportation	87%	13%
Questionnaires	27%	73%

# IME Process Statistics: Reasonable distance

Distance standard	% responding
Within same county	41%
Urban/Suburban/Rural standards	4%
Not to exceed mileage	22%
Not disclosed/no standard	33%

# IME Panel Discussion on IME Process

- Introductions
- IME Process differences (from general overview)
- Recommendations on system improvements
- Q&A Session

# Topics for Quality of Reports

- **IME preclusions**
- **Accuracy of POIs**
- **Duplicate submissions**
- **IMEs performed but not filed with Board**
- **Addendums**
  - Frequency
  - Scope
    - Minor Clarifications
    - New Issues/Additional Clarification
  - Communication

# Next Meeting

- Tuesday, July, 9<sup>th</sup>
- 12pm-3pm
- Send questions/comments to [IMEAdvisory@wcb.ny.gov](mailto:IMEAdvisory@wcb.ny.gov) if you will not be present for this meeting