

Handout 3 - Reasonable Travel Time Materials

IME Entity Survey Responses

Survey Results about policy in selecting IME locations in Rural Area	Number of IME Entities	Percent
Under 50-60 Miles**/60 Minutes in driving	14	19.18%
Under 35-45 Miles/45 Minutes in driving	3	4.11%
Under 25-30 Miles/30 Minutes in driving	9	12.33%
Under 10-20 Miles/20 Minutes in driving	5	6.85%
Same county or select closest exam location	18	24.66%
NA	24	32.88%
Total	73	100.00%
Average	39 Miles	
Median	40 Miles	

Survey Results about policy in selecting IME locations in Urban Area	Number of IME Entities	Percent
Under 50-60 Miles/60 Minutes in driving	5	6.85%
Under 35-45 Miles/45 Minutes in driving	3	4.11%
Under 25-30 Miles/30 Minutes in driving	3	4.11%
Under 5-20 Miles/20 Minutes in driving	14	19.18%
Same county/borough or select closest exam location	24	32.88%
NA	24	32.88%
Total	73	100.00%
Average	26 Miles	
Median	20 Miles	

Note: **The distance in miles is calculated based on the claimant's residence address and IME service location. If travel distance/time is an issue or concern, transportation is typically offered as an option for the claimants when authorized by the carrier.

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Injured Worker Survey Respondents - Estimated Travel Time

District	Count	Avg Time to IME (min.)	Avg Time to Dr. ¹ (min.)	Difference (IME - Dr)	Greater than 10 Min. Diff. ²
Albany	20	26.4	26.5	-0.1	2
Binghamton	1	7.0	7.0	0.0	0
Brooklyn	8	34.1	24.0	10.1	4
Buffalo	12	30.1	25.9	4.2	3
Long Island	10	34.3	16.6	17.7	6
Manhattan	16	24.8	28.8	-4.0	5
Queens	19	22.3	23.1	-0.8	4
Rochester	7	32.7	23.6	9.1	4
Syracuse	5	26.6	17.8	8.8	2
Statewide ⁵	98	27.5	24.1	3.4	30
Statewide (median)	98	25.0	19.5	3.0	30

Location	Count	Avg Time to IME (min.)	Avg Time to Dr. (min.)	Difference (IME - Dr)	Greater than 10 Min. Diff.
Upstate ³	45	27.9	24.5	3.5	11
Down State ⁴	43	25.4	25.4	0.0	13
Long Island	10	34.3	16.6	17.7	6
Statewide	98	27.5	24.1	3.4	30
Statewide (median)	98	25.0	19.5	3.0	30

All travel times were derived using Google Maps, with driving used as the mode of transportation.

¹ "Dr." is the most recent treating provider the claimant had seen in relation to the IME date.

² "Greater than 10 Min. Diff." represents a count of claimants where the potential travel time to the IME was greater than 10 minutes to that of the most recent provider.

³ Upstate includes the following district offices: Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse.

⁴ Down State includes: Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens.

⁵ The statewide count does not consider 11 of the 109 respondents who either live out of state or did not have a valid address.

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%

Reasonable Distance Regulations for Diagnostic Testing Networks

WCL Section 13-A(7)(a)

(7)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, any insurance carrier authorized to transact the business of workers' compensation insurance in this state, self-insurer or the state insurance fund may contract with a network or networks, legally and properly organized, to perform diagnostic tests, x-ray examinations, magnetic resonance imaging, or other radiological examinations or tests of claimants and may require claimant to obtain or undergo such diagnostic test, x-ray examinations, magnetic resonance imaging or other radiological examinations or tests with a provider or at a facility that is affiliated with the network or networks with which the carrier contracts, except if a medical emergency occurs requiring an immediate diagnostic test, x-ray examination, magnetic resonance imaging or other radiological examination or test or if the network with which the insurance carrier, self-insurer or the state insurance fund contracts does not have a provider or facility able to perform the examination or test within a reasonable distance from the claimant's residence or place of employment, as defined by regulation of the board.

Reasonable distance means within 25 miles of the injured or ill worker's residence or place of employment except for the following localities: within the City of New York within 5 miles of the injured or ill worker's residence or place of employment; within the Cities of Albany, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Rochester, Schenectady, Syracuse, Troy, and Yonkers within 10 miles of the injured or ill worker's residence or place of employment; and within the Counties of Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester within 15 miles of the injured or ill worker's residence or place of employment. However, if there are no facilities or providers who perform diagnostic examinations and tests within such distances from the injured or ill worker's residence or place of employment, then *reasonable distance* means the distance between the injured or ill worker's residence or place of employment and the nearest facility or provider. In no event should travel time to the facility or provider who performs diagnostic examinations and tests exceed one hour.