



Workers' Compensation Board

March 14, 2019

IME Advisory Committee

Provider 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 – *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 IME Providers

Agenda Topic	Time Allocation
Intro & Recap of Provider Data	15 minutes
IME Provider Access	70 minutes
Authorized/Not Authorized	
Upstate/Downstate	
High Volume IME Providers	
Break	15 minutes
Integrity of Exams and Providers	70 minutes
Training	
Exam Preparation	
Credibility of Reports	
IME Non-referral list	
Overseas Review	
Wrap-up and Overview of April meeting	10 minutes

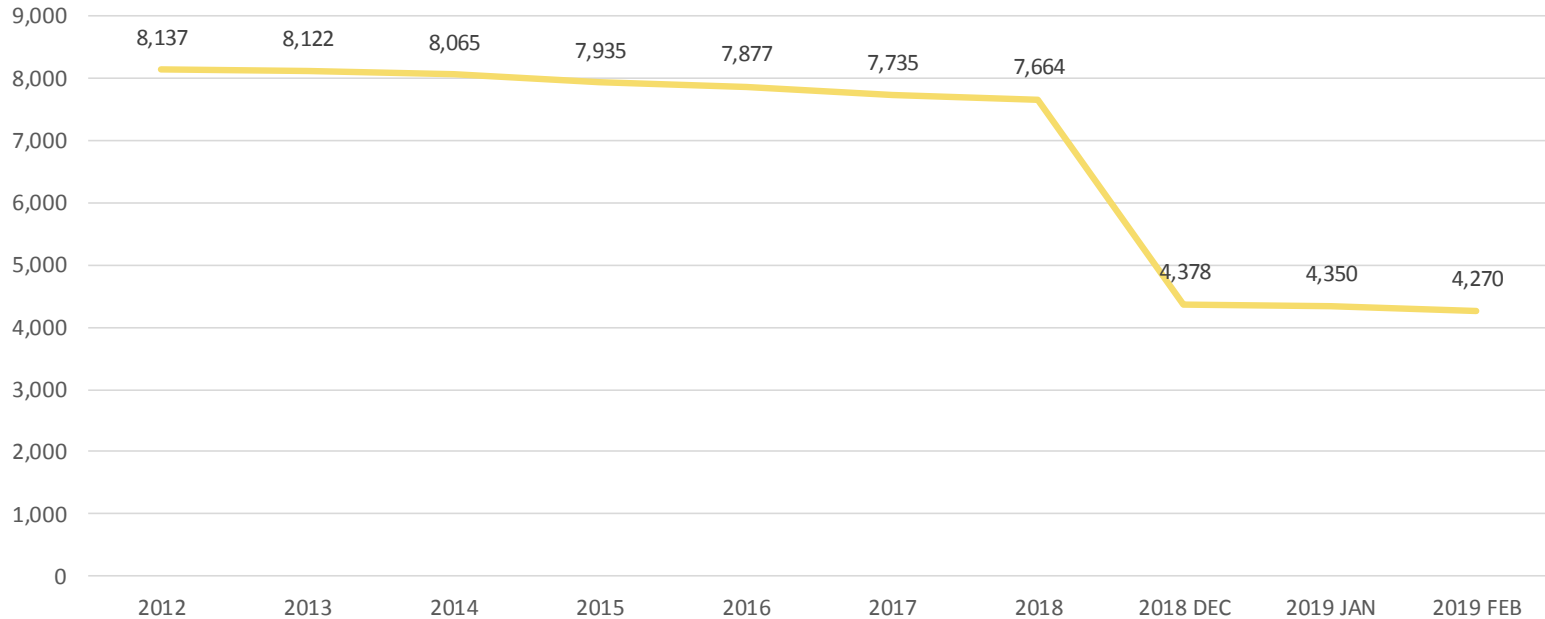
Provider Summary

Study Findings

- In recent years, there has been a drop in the number of authorized IME providers
- Certain parts of the state had few or even no authorized IME providers
- The majority of providers who performed IMEs actively treated injured workers
- 72% of the total IMEs were performed by just 2.5% of eligible authorized providers
- The large majority of IMEs were performed by orthopedic surgeons

IME Provider Access

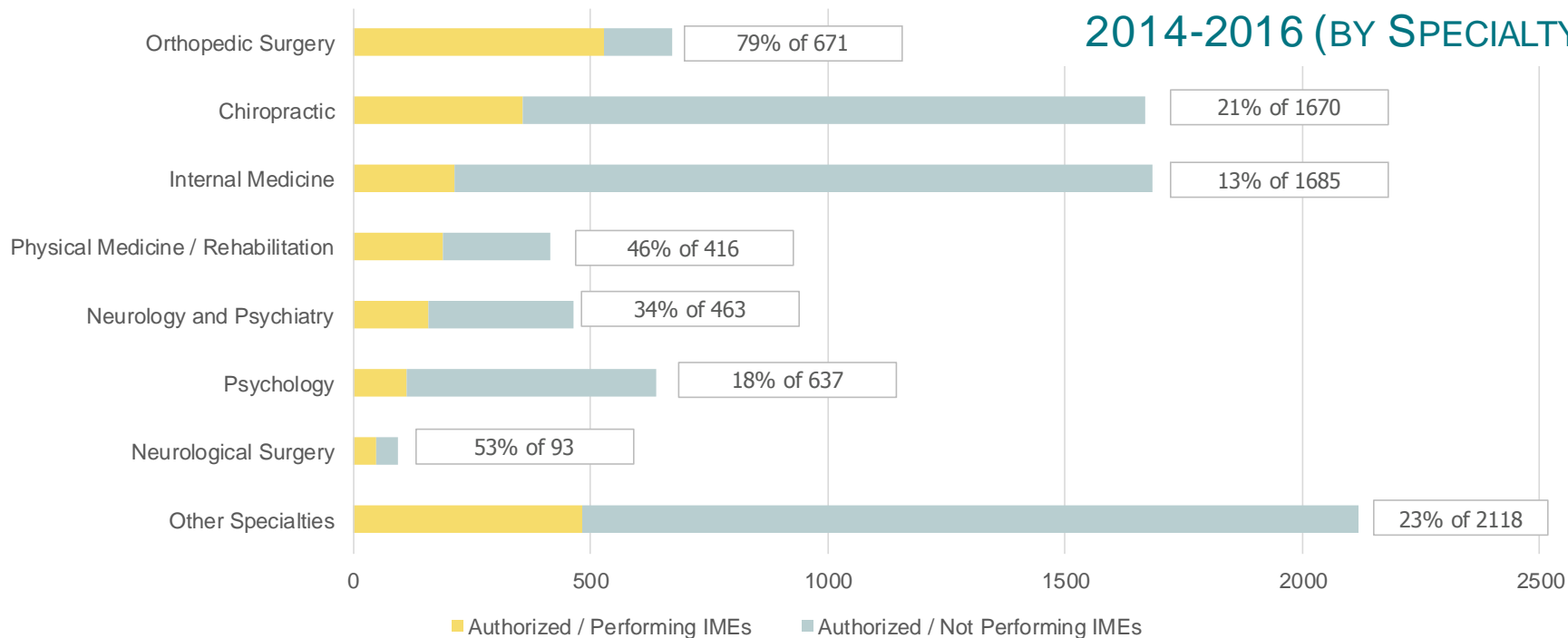
AUTHORIZED IME PROVIDERS IN NYS



Source: Board data

IME Provider Access

AUTHORIZED IME PROVIDERS WHO PERFORMED AN IME IN 2014-2016 (BY SPECIALTY)



Source: IME entity data and Board data

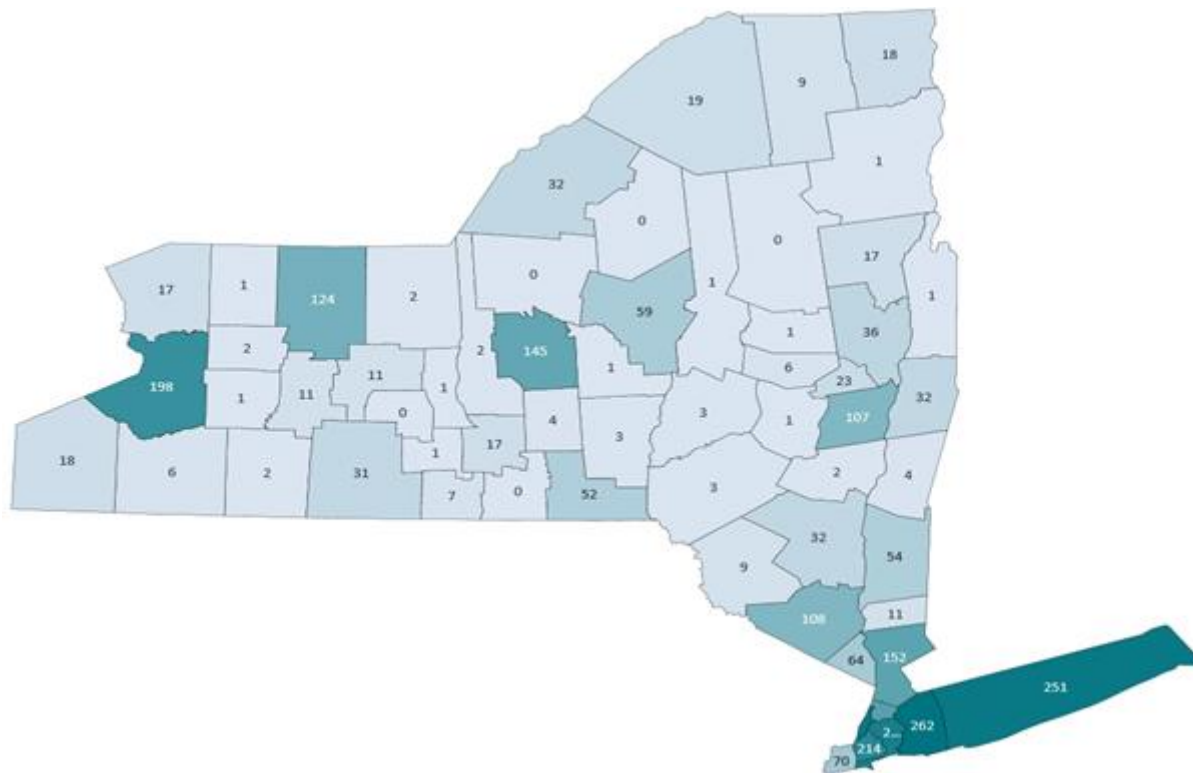
IME Provider Access

■ Not Board authorized (Performed out-of-state)

Location	Number of Unauthorized Providers	IMEs by Unauthorized Providers
Connecticut	109	450
New Jersey	55	125
Pennsylvania	227	2,039
Vermont	10	24
Massachusetts	198	849
Florida	380	1,681
Non-US (3 countries)	3	8
US-Others	1061	2618
Total		7,794

IME Provider Access

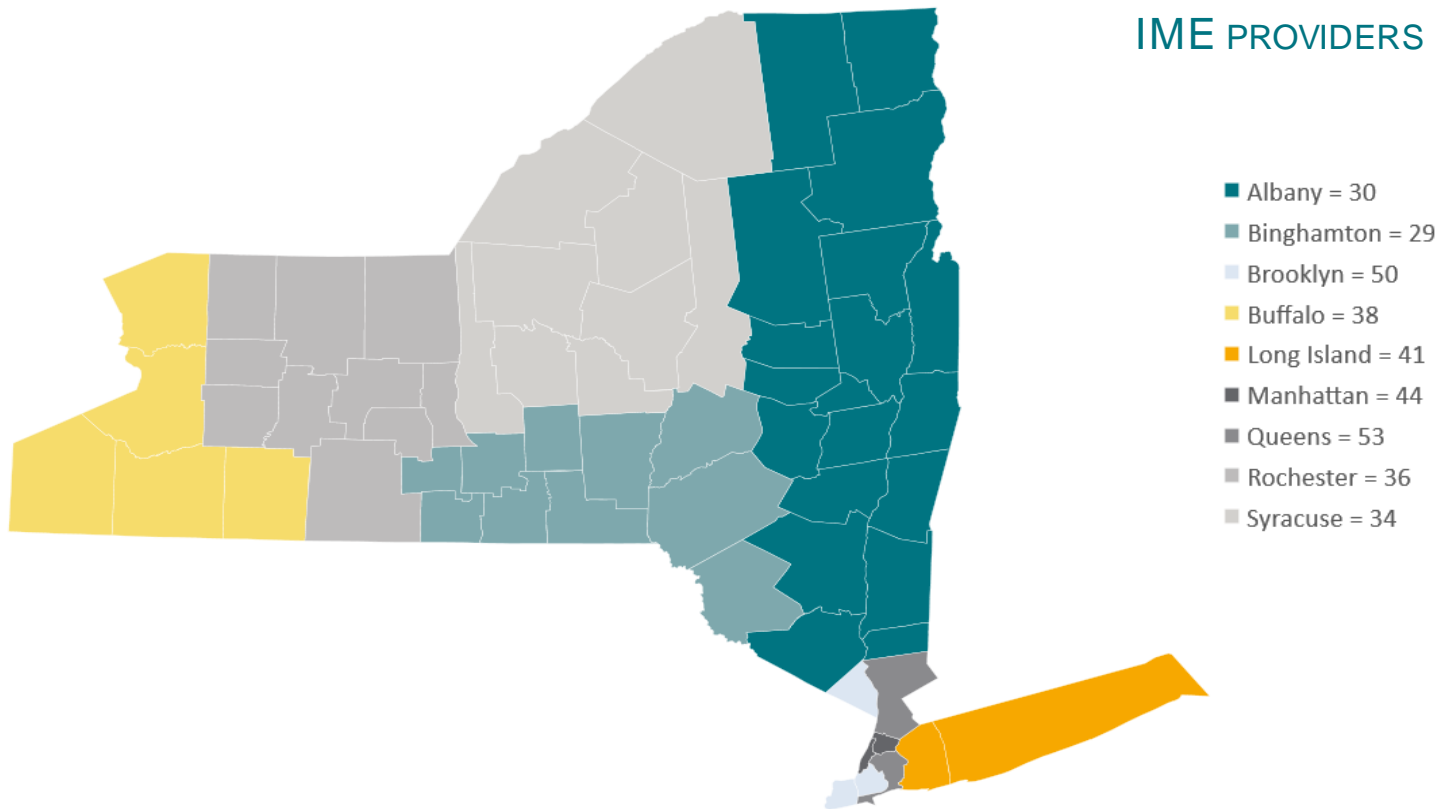
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF IME PROVIDERS



Downstate Counties	
Nassau	262
Suffolk	251
New York	252
Queens	234
Kings	214
Bronx	159
Westchester	152
Richmond	70
Rockland	64

IME Provider Access

RATIO OF IMES PERFORMED TO
IME PROVIDERS BY WCB
DISTRICT



IME Providers

PROVIDERS PERFORMING IMES AND ACTIVELY TREATING

Provider Type	Count of IME Providers	% of Total IME by transaction count
IME Authorized Only	122	13.3%
Authorized for Both but Performing IMEs Only	84	0.2%
Performing IMEs and Actively Treating	1,883	86.5%
Total	2,089	100%

IME Providers – by Specialty

Authorized Specialty	IME Providers Who Submitted IME Services (a)	Both Treating & IME (b)	% Treating & Performing IME Services (c)
Orthopedic Surgery	527	489	93%
Neurology and Psychiatry	157	130	83%
Physical Medicine / Rehabilitation	190	183	96%
Chiropractic	358	337	94%
Internal Medicine	213	186	87%
Neurological Surgery	49	44	90%
Psychology	114	82	72%
Other Specialties	481	432	90%
Total	2,089	1,883	

a) IME providers who submitted an IME-4 to the Board and/or performed an IME

b) IME providers who actively treated and performed IMEs

c) Percentage of authorized IME providers who both treated and performed IMEs (b/a)

IME Providers

DISTRIBUTION OF IME BY SPECIALTY

Specialty	Percentage of IME Performed
Orthopedic Surgery	80.3%
Neurology and Psychiatry	5.2%
Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation	3.6%
Chiropractic	2.7%
Internal Medicine	2.5%
Neurological Surgery	1.7%
Psychology	1.1%
Other Specialties	2.9%
	100%

IME Providers

IME Range (Total completed)	Total Providers		Total IMEs Performed		Payment
	#	%	#	%	Average
1-5 IMEs	2,889	70.7%	5,130	1.3%	\$1,201
6-100 IMEs	860	21.0%	20,152	5.1%	\$894
101-500 IMEs	173	4.2%	39,688	10.0%	\$702
501-1000 IMEs	63	1.5%	44,087	11.1%	\$593
1001-5000 IMEs	94 ^(a)	2.3%	221,551	56.0%	\$511
5001-9000 IMEs	10 ^(b)	0.2%	65,105	16.5%	\$443

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

(b) All providers = Orthopedic Surgery specialty

High Volume IME Providers 2014-2016

Specialty	Count of IME Providers				Totals
	IME Only	IME, Health, WC	IME + WC	IME + Health	
Neurological Surgery	1	-	-	-	1
Neurology and Psychiatry	1	-	-	4	5
Orthopedic Surgery	47	29	12	6	94
Pain Management / Physical Medicine	-	2	-	2	4
Total Provider Counts	49	31	12	12	104
Total IMEs	229,172	150,481	59,620	42,154	481,427

[See Handout 1 for more information]

High Volume IME Providers 2017-2018

Specialty	Count of IME Providers			Totals
	IME Only	IME, Health, WC	IME + WC	
Neurology and Psychiatry	2	1	-	3
Orthopedic Surgery	3	12	3	18
Pain Management / Physical Medicine	-	3	-	3
Total Provider Counts	5	16	3	24
Total IMEs	11,153	38,478	5,133	54,764

[See Handout 2 for more information]

Discussion on IME Provider Access

- Is there a sufficient number of IME providers – overall?
- Is there a sufficient number of IME providers – in all specialties?
- Are there concerns with sufficient numbers of providers in rural areas?
- Are there concerns with unauthorized IME providers?
- Is there a problem with disproportionately higher volume IME providers?

If yes.....how can it be fixed?

15-minute break

- Please take a look at handout #3 during break – information on other state IME training requirements

Integrity of Exams & IME Providers

■ Training

Summary of IAIABC survey regarding required IME provider training (27 jurisdictions responded)

- Similar to NYS, 20 states in the IAIABC survey have no requirements
- 7 require passing a certification test and/or course: CA, CO, OK, OR, TN, TX, WA
- Of those 7, 6 require providers to enroll in specific CME courses (except OR).

[See Handout 3 for more information]

Integrity of Exams & IME Providers

■ Credibility of Reports

- Carrier IME
- Injured Worker Treating
- Injured Worker IME
- Records Review

Integrity of Exams & IME Providers

- IME non-referral list
- Exam preparation/File review
- Overseas records reviews

Discussion on Integrity of Exams & IME Providers

- Should there be required IME provider training?
- Are there credibility issues with reports?
- Should overseas records reviews be allowed?
- Are there opportunities to improve exam preparation and file reviews?

If yes, how should they be fixed?

Consensus on topics?

Topics for Scheduling

■ Scheduling

- Self-initiated (no deadline) vs. Directed or required (deadline imposed)
- Specialty Providers' Availability
- Notice (7 days)
- Cancellations/No-Shows

■ Reports

- 10 business days (20 days out-of-state)
- Same day/Same manner

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, April 9th
- 12-3pm
- Send questions/comments to IMEAdvisory@wcb.ny.gov if you will not be present for this meeting