

About independent medical examinations



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What is an independent medical examination?

Sometimes we'll make an appointment for you to see a doctor who is not your regular doctor. This is called an independent medical examination (IME). We might ask you to attend an IME appointment to seek additional information or clarify specific aspects of your injury or illness to help us guide decisions about your claim.

Why do I need to attend?

It's important to know why WorkCover has made an appointment for you to see an independent doctor. If you're not sure, just ask us. Some common reasons are:

- to obtain more information that will help us decide if we should accept your claim
- to better understand your injury and treatment options
- to decide if we should fund surgery or other treatment that's been requested
- to help us identify what work you can safely do while you're recovering
- to obtain information to understand whether your claim can continue or if it should stop.

Who is the doctor I will be seeing?

Medical practitioners who provide IMEs also work as doctors in their own private practice and are not employed by WorkCover. We'll send you to a doctor who has the right medical expertise that is relevant to your injury or illness. They will only provide an independent medical opinion to WorkCover and won't make any decisions about your claim.

What will happen when I see the doctor?

The doctor might ask you questions about your injury or illness, how it happened, what treatment you've had, and the impact on your daily life and activities. They may ask questions covered by your treating doctor. It's important to be open and honest so the doctor has a complete picture. This appointment may be different from when you see your usual doctor. For example:

- the doctor can't provide you with any advice or treatment options.
- depending on the injury, some examinations can take a long time, while others may be very short with the doctor asking only a few questions.

We'll provide the doctor with any medical reports or other relevant information we have before you go.

What should I bring to the appointment?

- any scans, X-rays or medical reports you have
- a list of any medications you are taking
- a list of any doctors or health providers you've already seen about your injury or illness.

You can take someone with you to the appointment, but it's up to the doctor if that person can be present during the examination.

What should I wear?

If you have a physical injury or condition, the doctor might need to examine the relevant part of your body. Please make sure to wear undergarments and loose, comfortable clothing that can be removed if the doctor needs to examine your injury.

Before you go

We'll send you the details for the appointment, and a reminder SMS. You can also view these in the Worker Assist app. Download it here: workcoverqld.co/WorkerAssist. The doctor may also contact you with their own requirements, such as a form to fill in prior to the appointment. If there's any reason you can't make it to your appointment, you need to let us know as soon as possible.

What happens after I see the doctor?

The doctor may refer you to get scans or relevant screening tests after you see them. Afterwards, they will send a report to WorkCover, usually within two weeks. In some cases, we will forward the report to your regular doctor so they can make decisions about your treatment. If you'd like to see the medical report, just ask us and we can send it to your doctor to discuss with you.

More information

We're here to help, so please talk to us if you're concerned or would like to discuss the outcome of your appointment. You can find the details of your claim contact in the Worker Assist App or call **1300 927 928** to speak with us.

If you need help in your language call 1800 512 451 and ask for an interpreter.

Video resource

The information on this page is also covered in this video: workcoverqld.co/IME

