

# What is a medical arbiter examination?

## Appellate Review Unit

### MEDICAL ARBITER EXAMINATION INFORMATION

#### What is a medical arbiter examination?

When you, your attorney, or your workers' compensation insurer disagrees with the notice closing your claim, the Oregon Workers' Compensation Division (WCD) may be asked to review that closure. The review process is called reconsideration and is completed by the Appellate Review Unit of WCD. As part of the reconsideration process, an impartial medical examination may be requested by you, your attorney, the insurer, or by the Appellate Review Unit itself. This examination is known as a medical arbiter examination.

The Appellate Review Unit arranges the medical arbiter examination with a doctor or a panel of doctors trained by WCD to conduct impartial examinations. To ensure impartiality, the examination is scheduled with a doctor you have not seen before.

The doctor will examine body areas related only to your compensable injury, as instructed by the Appellate Review Unit. No doctor/patient relationship will be established. The doctor is also asked not to share examination findings with you or

discuss treatment options for any medical condition.

After performing an impartial examination, the doctor will send a written report to the Appellate Review Unit, with copies to you, the insurer, and all attorneys involved in the reconsideration proceeding.

#### Why has a medical arbiter examination been scheduled?

The examination has been scheduled because there is a disagreement about the impairment findings used to close your claim. An important part of the reconsideration process, the medical arbiter examination provides necessary information so that a decision can be made about the extent of your permanent disability, if any.

#### When is the medical arbiter examination?

An appointment letter will notify you of the date, time, and location of your examination. You must be on time for your examination. If you are unable to keep this appointment, you must call



our office at 800-452-0288, ext. 7816 (toll-free). Call as soon as possible if you must reschedule.

#### Where is the medical arbiter examination?

If possible, the medical arbiter examination will be scheduled with a doctor near where you live. Injured workers living outside of Oregon may be required to return to Oregon to be examined. You will receive specific information about the examination location from the appellate service team within the Appellate Review Unit.

#### WORKER PROTECTION





## Do I get reimbursed for my travel expenses and lost wages?

Your workers' compensation insurer will reimburse or advance reasonable travel costs and reimburse lost wages. If necessary, reasonable child care, meals, and lodging costs will be paid. You should send your receipts directly to the insurer. To ask for a travel advance, call the insurer as soon as possible to allow it time to process your request.

## What should I do if I can't keep my medical arbiter appointment?

Call the appellate service team as soon as possible if you cannot go to the appointment. If you do not attend the medical arbiter appointment, your disability benefits may be suspended. You must contact us within 24 hours after the missed appointment. Ask for the appellate service representative on your appointment notice, or call 503-947-7816 or 800-452-0288, ext. 7816 (toll-free).

## Points to remember

Medical arbiter examinations can vary in length. While most are short, some take more than an hour. Also, the arbiter physician may require additional testing. Make sure you ask for enough time off work to attend the medical arbiter examination. Avoid scheduling other appointments close to the time of the examination.

Do not bring any medical records, X-rays, or other diagnostic studies with you to the medical arbiter examination. We will provide the doctor a copy of your medical records.

Notify the Appellate Review Unit if you move or get a new phone number during the reconsideration process.

For information, call 800-452-0288, ext. 7816 (toll-free).

**Visit our website:**  
[www.wcd.oregon.gov](http://www.wcd.oregon.gov)

**For more information, call**

503-947-7816

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### **Workers' Compensation Division**

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