

Basic AMA Impairment Ratings for Chiropractors

6 Hours

Objectives: Upon completion of this course, participants should be able to:

1. Understand how to apply mandated impairment ratings to obtain Whole Person Impairment (WPI) using the AMA Guides 5th Edition as required by the California DWC.
2. Be able to understand when to “Combine” versus “Add” impairments.
3. Understand the difference between spinal related DRE (Diagnosis Related Estimate) categories and ROM (Range of Motion) impairments.
4. Walk through case study examples and apply ratings to the cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine using DRE (Diagnosis Related Estimate) and ROM (Range of Motion).
5. Review differences between DRE categories I-V for the cervical spine
6. Review differences between DRE categories I-V for the thoracic spine
7. Review differences between DRE categories I-V for the lumbar spine
8. Determine the appropriate method for impairment rating assessment
9. When to use DRE impairment ratings
10. When to use ROM method for spinal ratings
11. Review spinal impairment evaluation process algorithm
12. Explain the three components to ROM method; diagnosis, loss of motion and neurologic deficit
13. How to obtain valid and admissible ROM measurements
14. How to address multiple diagnoses to the same spinal region
15. Interpreting the criteria for rating whole person impairment percentage due to specific spine disorders as a part of the ROM method (i.e. compression fractures, intervertebral disc lesions, operations, spondylosis, spinal stenosis, etc.)
16. Where to place the dual inclinometers for spinal measurements
17. How to assess sensory and motor deficits for impairment
18. How to combine total whole person impairment using the combined value chart
19. Determining pain add on impairment ratings
20. Steps to evaluate impairments for the upper extremities
21. Walk through case study examples and apply ratings for the upper extremities.
22. Examples of how to use the Combined Values Chart relative to different body regions/impairments.

Hourly Breakdown:

Hours	Topic
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding the difference between combining versus adding impairments for the purpose of rating.• Know exceptions to combining• Combining multiple body region impairments.• Identifying DRE categories for cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine injuries.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand how to apply mandated impairment ratings to obtain Whole Person Impairment (WPI) using the AMA Guides 5th Edition as required by the California DWC.• Understand the difference between spinal related DRE (Diagnosis Related Estimate) categories and ROM (Range of Motion) impairments.• Walk through case study examples and apply ratings to the cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine using DRE (Diagnosis Related Estimate) and ROM (Range of Motion).
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review differences between DRE categories I-V for the cervical spine• Review differences between DRE categories I-V for the thoracic spine• Review differences between DRE categories I-V for the lumbar spine• Determine the appropriate method for impairment rating assessment• When to use DRE impairment ratings• When to use ROM method for spinal ratings
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review spinal impairment evaluation process algorithm• Explain the three components to ROM method; diagnosis, loss of motion and neurologic deficit• How to obtain valid and admissible ROM measurements• How to address multiple diagnoses to the same spinal region
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interpreting the criteria for rating whole person impairment percentage due to specific spine disorders as a part of the ROM method (i.e. compression fractures, intervertebral disc lesions, operations, spondylosis, spinal stenosis, etc.)• Where to place the dual inclinometers for spinal measurements• How to assess sensory and motor deficits for impairment• How to combine total whole person impairment using the combined value chart
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determining pain add on impairment ratings• Steps to evaluate impairments for the upper extremities• Walk through case study examples and apply ratings for the upper extremities.• Examples of how to use the Combined Values Chart relative to different body regions/impairments.