

PROPOSED KEY CHANGES TO THE IMPAIRMENT ASSESSOR ACCREDITATION SCHEME (IAAS)

Transitional Arrangements

- The proposed IAAS includes some additional requirements for assessors not present in the current scheme.
- If the proposed IAAS is approved by the Minister after the general consultation period and consultation with the Minister's Advisory Committee, no assessors who are currently accredited will lose their existing accreditation and all will transition to the new Scheme.
- The new requirements set out in the Criteria Table (1.12, Page 7) and the proposed changes to the 'Guide for Systems and Specialties' (section 7 of this document) will only apply to future applicants who seek to become accredited.
- In relation to the Mandatory requirements of the Training Criteria Table (3.1.5, Page 11), these assessors will be provided 1 full year in which to complete this training to maintain their accreditation.

1. Criteria for Accreditation

- AHPRA: Addition of current undertakings or reprimands recorded against registration for medical practice.
- Criteria Table: Accreditation for some body systems have some mandatory requirements as specified in the Criteria Table (1.12, Page 7) which relate to 1.7 (Residential Location) and 1.9 (Active Clinical Practice).
- Training Criteria Table: Accreditation for some body systems have some mandatory requirements as specified in the Training Criteria Table (3.1.5, Page 11) which relates to Criteria 1.4 (Relevant AMA Training).
- Addition of a Conflict of Interest Requirements relating to general accreditation.

2. Terms and Conditions of Accreditation

- Adhere to IAAS Requirements and advise ReturnToWorkSA if unable to do so within 7 business days.
- Required use of ReturnToWorkSA's online services portal to receive report requests and submit completed assessments.
- Invoicing to be consistent with the current Permanent Impairment Assessment Services Medical Fee Schedule and Policy.
- Addition of a Conflict of Interest Requirement relating to individual assessments.

3. Service Requirements

- Required use of online technology relating to receiving and distributing relevant information.

- Providing reports in accordance with uniform Civil and South Australian Employment Tribunal Rules.
- Ensuring assessment location complies with relevant standards.

4. **Removal of Administrative Requirements section: Some previous components within ‘Terms and Conditions’ and ‘Services Requirements’.**

5. **Declaration and Ongoing Training Requirements**

- Accredited assessors will be required to complete a yearly declaration.
- Ongoing training requirements for accredited assessors.

6. **Quality Management**

- Support to be provided for assessors for medical and/or technical questions.
- Data to be provided to assessors relating to compliance, timeframes and worker surveys.
- Complaints process alignment with ReturnToWorkSA Complaints policy.

7. **Guide for ‘Systems and Specialities’**

- Table will be replacing previously titled ‘Guide to eligibility criteria for each body system’. Proposed changes to this table are:
 - a) Removal of **General Practitioners** to be able to deliver assessments: Will only apply to new accreditations. Currently accredited General Practitioners will retain their accreditation.
 - b) **General Physicians** have additional accreditation to assess **Lower Extremities**.
 - c) **Neurologists** do not have full **lower extremity** accreditation and that the **lower extremity** be **limited to peripheral nerves** and that they have additional accreditation to assess upper extremity peripheral nerves.
 - d) Plastic and Reconstruction Surgeon has additional accreditation to assess **facial nerves** in the **Central & Peripheral Nervous System**.
 - e) To assess cauda equina, assessors need to be accredited in both **Spine** and **Nervous System**.
 - f) **Thoracic surgeons** to be able to assess **Traumatic Hiatus Hernia**.
 - g) Additional category of specialist **Haematologist – Haematopoietic**.
 - h) **Rheumatologists** may assess people with **endocrine** disorders, e.g. thyroid. Endocrine disorders may present with rheumatological manifestations.
 - i) Removal of **Public Health Category**.
 - j) **Rheumatologist** able to assess **digestive system**.
 - k) Assessors trained in the upper ex, lower ex or spine body systems to undertake assessments of **hernia** only from 0% to 5% WPI (including GPs and Occupational Physicians).