

The Personal Injury Commission has determined that some medical dispute types and injuries may be suitable to be determined by an assessment on the papers provided that:

- All parties to the dispute, including the medical assessor, agree that the assessment can proceed in this way, and
- The documentation required for the dispute and injury type, as indicated below, is included in the material provided with the dispute.

Assessment on the papers may apply to one of the five types of medical disputes and will depend on the types of injuries an injured person may have, the available information provided by the parties in the application and reply, and by agreement of the parties to accept the proposed means of assessment.

Suitability for assessment on the papers will require relevant clinical notes, hospital notes and/or treating practitioner notes, as well as some specific documentation, imaging or photos depending on the injury. This is not to imply that the parties to a dispute should seek to have further imaging or tests conducted and admitted to the disputes. The parties should also note that any additional documentation will be admitted in accordance with the Commission's existing rules, procedural directions and guidelines.

The parties must also note that the medical assessor will ultimately determine whether the assessment can be conducted on the papers. Even when all parties to the dispute agree to an assessment on the papers, it may not proceed unless the medical assessor confirms it is suitable.

## Suitable Dispute Types

The following types of disputes that are scheduled for an in-person assessment *MAY* be suitable for an assessment on the papers if the type of injury and the available information meet the criteria.

The ultimate decision about whether a matter *CAN* be assessed on the papers will sit with the Medical Assessor, who will also determine whether a video-conference or teleconference is also needed.

The types of disputes are:

Division	Dispute type
Motor Accidents	Minor Injury: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Where radiculopathy or nerve damage are in dispute an in-person assessment will be required</li> <li>•When imaging is critical to the decision, actual images and not just the report will be needed</li> </ul>
	Treatment
Workers Compensation	General Medical Dispute
	Medical Expenses
Motor Accidents & Workers Compensation	Permanent Impairment

## List of Suitable Injuries

The following is a list of injuries which may be appropriate for assessment on the papers when the criteria listed is included in the documentation provided with the application.

Injury	Criteria to Assess on Papers - the following information should be included
Abdominal Trauma	Operation reports
Avascular Necrosis (dead bone)	Bone scan with SPECT/CT
Brain Injury/Possible Brain Injury	Ambulance report and initial hospital report, cognitive examination, MRA (MR) angiograms, Digital Subtraction Angiograms (DSA)
Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS)	Musculoskeletal injuries, a bone scan with SPECT/CT for assessing hot spots and comparing sides
Deep Venous Thrombosis and Varicose Veins	Adequate reporting/scan results/photos of varicose veins, varicose eczema and peripheral oedema/angiograms
Digestive System (upper and lower - excluding abdominal nerve damage)	Gastroscopy, endoscopy, colonoscopy/biopsy reports - patient must know their height/weight
ENT - Facial Disfigurement	Imaging of fractures, quality photographs
ENT - Hearing	Agreement on the audiogram to be used for the assessment and two parties' agreement on examination findings
ENT - Mastication Disorders	Dental records, investigation reports - agreement on examination findings would be necessary
Hernia - Inguinal/Ventral (excluding ilioinguinal nerve)	Ultrasound report/imaging
Irritable Bowel Syndrome	Reporting/scans
Malignant Melanoma	Reporting/scans
Morbid Obesity	Comprehensive documentation
Musculoskeletal - Upper Extremity and Lower Extremity (excluding nerve damage and radiculopathy)	Relevant imaging, bone scans, weight bearing views of the hip, knee, ankle and subtalar joints Agreement on range of motion Claimant has a structural impairment which has its own rating, eg partial meniscectomy, joint replacement, spinal fusion
Rib or Sternal Fractures	Relevant imaging, quality photos of any deformity
Pelvic Injuries	Adequate documentation and imaging
Skin and Scarring	Adequate documentation, quality photos or video and visible post-surgical/traumatic scarring

Personal Injury Commission staff are not able to provide advice about whether a matter is suitable for this process.