



## CHRIS D. FEVURLY MD, CIME

*Diplomat, American Board of Internal Medicine*

*Diplomat, American Board of Preventive Medicine*

*With specialization in Occupational Medicine*

*Diplomat, American Board of Independent Medical Examiners*

*Fellow, American Academy of Disability Evaluating Physicians*

*For Appointments email CDFEV@msn.com*

January 27, 2017

I support the use of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AMA's Guides in determining permanent impairment in the State of Kansas Worker's Compensation system. The editors of each edition have been clear in their admonition to use the most recent edition of the Guides as the science, evidence base and sophistication in the use of the Guides has advanced since 1958.

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AMA Guides (for the first time) standardized assessment of the Activities of Daily Living (ADL) limitations associated with physical impairment. It applied functional assessment tools to validate impairment rating scales. It included measures of functional loss in the impairment rating. It improved overall intrarater and interrater reliability and internal consistency. None of these issues were addressed adequately in the earlier editions. As a result, the Guides became more diagnosis based with these diagnoses being evidence-based when possible. In most cases, the Guides became much simpler to apply to different clinical conditions.

The sixth edition used (for the first time in all editions) the framework based upon the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) which is a comprehensive model of disablement developed by the World Health Organization. This allowed the editors of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition to include:

- A standardized approach across organ systems and chapters (which was notably absent in the earlier editions).
- The most contemporary evidence-based concepts and terminology of disablement from the ICF.
- The latest scientific research and evolving medical opinions provided by nationally and internationally recognized experts.
- Unified methodology that helps physicians calculate impairment ratings through a grid construct and promotes consistent scoring of impairment ratings.
- A more comprehensive and expanded diagnostic approach.
- Precise documentation of functional outcomes, physical findings and clinical test results, as modifiers of impairment severity.
  - Rating percentages derived using the 6<sup>th</sup> edition are functionally based to the fullest practical extent possible.
- Increased transparency and precision of the impairment ratings.
- Improved physician interrater reliability.

Offices

325 Maine, Lawrence, KS 66044. Phone: 785-505-3114 Fax # 785-505-3113

9040 Quivira Road, Lenexa, KS 66215 Phone: 913-492-9675 Fax # 913 894 9591

2025 Swift, North Kansas City, MO 64116 Phone # 816 221 0058 Fax # 816 894 9591

12828 East 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Wichita, KS 67230-1465 Phone 785 766 7317 for directions only