

PERMANENT PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT (PPI)



Some work injuries result in a permanent loss of function to body parts affected by a workplace injury or disease.

This loss of function may continue even after complete and appropriate medical treatments. This is called a *Permanent Physical Impairment (PPI)*.

This is not the same as a disability. Disability is an alteration of someone's capacity to meet personal, social or occupational demands.

PPI ASSESSMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1 What is a PPI assessment?

A PPI assessment is a medical examination to determine and measure the extent of the permanent impairment. It begins with a complete review of the claim file and is followed by a thorough physical examination of the compensable injury.

2 How do I qualify for a PPI assessment?

Once adequate healing time and physical rehabilitation has been completed, a medical review will determine if and when you qualify for this assessment. Your condition must be stable and have reached maximal medical improvement. This can vary from six to 24 months.



For example: A shoulder could be assessed 18 months following shoulder surgery.

3 What injuries are not covered by a PPI assessment?

WorkSafeNB must have accepted the injury as being work-related.

A permanent physical impairment rating is not provided for psychological or mental impairment when there is no physical injury. Pain and suffering are only considered when they directly affect impairment of the body's function.

Pre-existing/personal conditions do not qualify for a PPI assessment.

4 Who examines me during my PPI assessment?

A PPI assessment is conducted by a WorkSafeNB-approved medical examiner, certified by the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners (ABIME).

The physician must be independent and cannot be your current or past treating physician.

5 What happens during the PPI assessment?

The medical examiner gathers general background information from you about your health and your compensable injury.



Then a physical exam is conducted in relation to your injury by using tests for motion, strength and sensation. These tests are not strenuous and are performed in a way to avoid discomfort.

It is important for the medical examiner to conduct as thorough a physical exam as medically appropriate for an accurate assessment. This usually takes between 20-60 minutes to complete.

6 Do I have to participate in a PPI assessment?

You may refuse a PPI assessment, but then WorkSafeNB will be unable to determine if you are entitled to a PPI award.

7 What happens after my PPI assessment?

Following your PPI assessment, a report will be sent to your claim manager and treating physician.

Within 4-6 weeks, you can expect to receive a letter from your claim manager with your assessment results.



If it is determined that a permanent physical impairment is the result of your workplace injury, an impairment rating percentage is assigned and used to calculate a PPI award.

8 Will WorkSafeNB pay my travel expenses?

Travel expenses will be paid in accordance with the current approved travel policy.



If determined to be necessary, overnight accommodation expenses are paid, case by case. If you are unsure what expenses will be covered, please contact your claim manager to discuss this before booking any travel.

9 Will WorkSafeNB pay for my time away from work to attend medical appointments?

If you miss time from work due to this medical appointment, you will need a letter from your employer indicating the number of unpaid work hours missed and the normal rate of pay. You will subsequently be compensated for a reasonable amount of lost time. This information can be sent through a secure [MyServices](#) account or faxed to 1 888 629-4722.

10 Where do I get more information about PPI assessments?

For more PPI FAQs, visit worksafenb.ca. If you have further questions, contact your claim manager directly.