

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Division of Workers' Compensation**

EVALUATION OF PREVIOUS SPINAL ROM IMPAIRMENT

For use when previous spinal ROM impairment rating is unavailable for apportionment

If the patient has pre-injury spinal range of motion measurements taken consistent with the AMA Guides 3rd edition (revised), the impairment from those measurements should be subtracted from the ROM impairment calculated for the current spinal injury and this worksheet should not be used.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. First, the physician must establish the maximum allowable spinal deficit impairment for ROM apportionment of the prior injury using **Table A**. Pay attention to footnotes associated with each condition.
2. *If not instructed to utilize full value listed in Table A*, the physician uses **Table B** to choose the severity category (none, mild, moderate or severe) that best represents the state of the patient **in the year prior to the current injury**. In many cases, all of the information in Table B may not be available. In that case, indicate the information that is missing on Table B and determine the severity category from the available information. Each severity category in Table B has an associated Severity Index Range. After you have determined the appropriate severity category, determine a Severity Index percentage from that category that you believe best represents the patient.
3. Calculate the Previous Spinal ROM Impairment percentage using the **Calculation of Apportionable ROM** section at the end of this worksheet.

TABLE A

Maximum Allowable Spinal Deficits for Range of Motion Apportionment of Prior Injuries

Total Apportionable Impairment Percentage for Range of Motion			
Medical Condition (using Table 53 p. 80 as a reference)	Cervical	Thoracic	Lumbar
Spinal Fusion ¹	14%	4%	12%
Other surgically-treated disc lesions ²	6%	2%	5%
Other disorders rated under Table 53 ³	3%	1%	3%

¹ For one-level fusion, complete severity category rating (Table B) as directed. For a two or multi-level fusion, use the full 14%, 4% or 12% (as appropriate to the spinal region).

² If discectomy is done in conjunction with fusion, use fusion value on the table.

³ This includes all other Table 53 ratings including diagnosis for fracture, spinal stenosis, spondylolysis, spondylolistheses, or chronic pain with medically documented injury and a minimum of six months medically documented pain and rigidity with or without muscle spasm

TABLE B

**Severity Index Worksheet for Evaluation of Range of Motion Deficit
from a Previous Spinal Injury¹**

Severity:	(None) ✓	Mild ✓	Moderate ✓	Severe ✓	N/A
Restriction in activity (work and activities of daily living) caused by previous spinal injury	Full Activity (no restrictions)	Temporary episode-related restriction	Some permanent restriction	Limited to sedentary activities	
Number of episodes within the year prior to the current injury causing functional disability	0	1	2 - 3	>3	
Time lost from work in last 12 months due to the previous injury	0	1-2 days	3-5 days	>5 days	
Medical visits (MD, DO, DC) in the last 12 months due to the previous injury	None	1-2 visits	3-6 visits	>6 visits	
Severity Index Range	0%	1-33%	34-66%	67-100%	

¹ This table only applies when the injury occurred in the same spinal area--cervical, thoracic or lumbar—as the work-related injury being rated.

Calculation of Apportionable ROM

$$\text{Regional Impairment Percentage} \frac{\quad}{\text{Table A}} \% \times \text{Severity Index (if applicable)} \frac{\quad}{\text{Table B}} \% = \frac{\quad}{\quad} \% \text{ ROM Impairment due to previous injury}^*$$

*Use this value as Previous ROM Impairment on Apportionment Calculation Worksheet for spinal conditions. Round 0.5% up to the next whole number, less than 0.5% down to the nearest whole number.