



RULE XX

ACCREDITATION OF PHYSICIANS

A. STATEMENT OF BASIS AND PURPOSE

1. This rule is promulgated to implement and establish procedures for the physicians accreditation program as set forth in §8-42-101 (3.5 and 3.6), C.R.S., to provide physicians with an understanding of their administrative, legal and medical roles in the workers' compensation system. Accreditation requirements established herein shall apply to:
 - (a) Physicians who seek Level I accreditation under the Act; and
 - (b) Physicians providing permanent impairment evaluation of claimants; and
 - (c) Physicians serving on the Division Independent Medical Examination Panel.

B. ACCREDITATION

1. To obtain Level I or Level II Accreditation a physician qualified under the Act shall:
 - a. complete an application form prescribed by the Division and in Level II cases, indicate if full accreditation or limited accreditation is sought;
 - b. attend a Division seminar and/or review the Division materials on the worker's compensation system; for Level II accreditation, this must include the American Medical Association Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, Third Edition (Revised), in effect as of July 1, 1991 ("AMA Guides"), and demonstrate an understanding of such materials by passing an examination administered by the Division; and
 - c. certify agreement to comply with all Division rules, including but not limited to the medical treatment guidelines, permanent impairment rating guidelines and utilization standards adopted by the director, and all relevant statutes.
2. After paying the accreditation registration fee, a physician shall have three opportunities to pass the examination administered by the Division. If the physician does not pass the examination on the third attempt, he or she shall be required to wait six months and pay a second registration fee before taking the examination again.
3. Accreditation begins on the date the physician successfully passes the accreditation examination.

4. Accreditation expires three years subsequent to the date the physician successfully passes the accreditation examination.
5. For Level II Accreditation only:
 - a. Full Accreditation: A qualified physician who passes the complete Level II Accreditation examination as determined and administered by the Division shall be fully accredited to determine permanent impairment ratings on any work-related injury or illness.
 - b. Limited Accreditation: A qualified physician who seeks Level II Accreditation in order to rate impairment only in connection with an area of medical specialty and who passes specified portions of the Level II examination as determined and administered by the Division shall receive limited accreditation to determine permanent impairment ratings on the corresponding sections of the AMA Guides.

C. RENEWAL OF ACCREDITATION

1. The Division shall provide accredited physicians not less than sixty (60) days written notice of impending expiration of their accreditation. The procedures for registration and additional training for renewal of accreditation shall be determined by the director pursuant to this Rule XX and described in such written notification.
2. A physician who does not renew their accreditation before their accreditation expiration date may reapply and complete the process for initial accreditation under section B of this Rule XX.
3. To renew accreditation, a qualified physician shall:
 - a. complete an application form prescribed by the Division and, for Level II accreditation, indicate if full accreditation or limited accreditation is sought;
 - b. attend a Division seminar and/or review the Division materials on the worker's compensation system; for Level II accreditation, this shall include the curriculum for permanent impairment ratings;
 - c. attend a Division seminar and/or review the Division instructional materials on each Medical Treatment Guideline under Rule XVII;
 - d. certify agreement to comply with all Division rules, including but not limited to the medical treatment guidelines, permanent impairment rating guidelines, and utilization standards adopted by the director, and all relevant statutes.

D. REVOCATION OF ACCREDITATION

1. The director, with input from the medical director, may revoke a Level I or Level II Accreditation on any of the following grounds:
 - a. refusal to comply, substantial failure to comply, or two or more incidents of failure to comply with the provisions of these Workers' Compensation Rules of Procedure and all relevant statutes,
 - b. refusal to comply, substantial failure to comply, or two or more incidents of failure to follow the AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, with applicable additions by the Division, the medical treatment guidelines and utilization standards adopted by the Division,
 - c. a misrepresentation on the application for accreditation, or
 - d. by final order of the director in a proceeding held pursuant to section 8-43-501, C.R.S., where the reviewing panel has unanimously recommended that accreditation be revoked.
 - e. a combination of two or more incidents as set forth in subsections (a) and (b) of this Part (D)(1).
2. The severity of any sanctions taken under these rules shall reflect the character of the failure and the attendant circumstances.
3. A proceeding to revoke a Level I or Level II Accreditation may be initiated by the director, with input from the medical director.
4. Following a hearing before an administrative law judge to revoke a physician's accreditation, the administrative law judge shall render findings of fact and conclusions of law, and then make recommendations to the director, who shall enter an order in the case.