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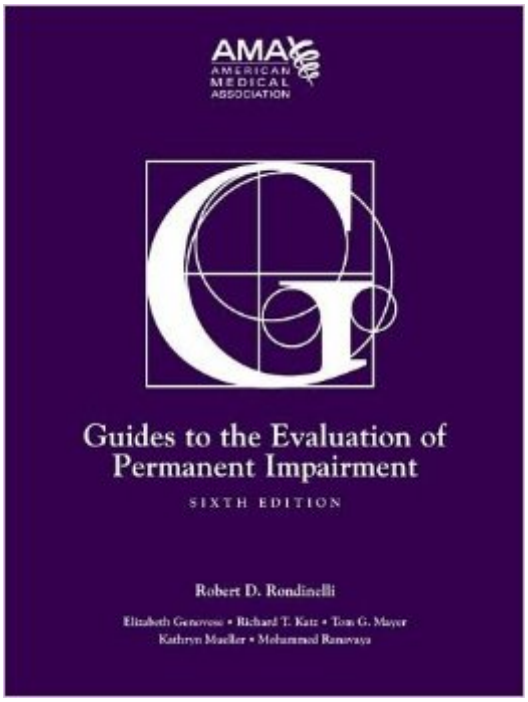
Guides To The Evaluation Of Permanent Impairment, Sixth Edition



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Synopsis

Updated and Enhanced: AMA Guides Sixth offers the most current guidelines for correct impairment evaluation. Please note: This pubilcation was reprinted in July 2009 to incorporate the Clarifications and Corrections document in its entirety. All purchases made after July 2009 will be the latest Guides Sixth ediiton available. Not sure? The word Reprint is on the outside , back cover of all reprinted copies. The Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, Sixth Edition, (Guides Sixth) from the American Medical Association, emphasizes the fundamental skills physicians need to evaluate and communicate patient impairments.Standardized methodology is applied to each chapter to enhance the relevancy of impairment ratings, improve internal consistency and promote ease of application to the rating process. This ordered method enables busy physicians to become proficient with the ratings for multiple organ systems and anticipate how each chapter is organized and assimilates information.The Guides Sixth applies both terminology from, and an analytical framework based on, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), to generate five impairment classes which permit the rating of the patient from no impairment to most severe. A diagnosis-based grid has been developed for each organ system that arranges commonly used ICD-9 diagnoses within the five classes of impairment severity, acording to the consensus-based dominant criterion.Functionally based histories, physical findings and broadly accepted objective clinical tests results are integrated where applicable to help physicians determine the grade within the imairment class. The result is a decision that is both transparent and reproducible.Using the latest evidence in diagnosis and clinical tests, the Guides Sixth offers the following key features:The latest scientific research and evolving medical opinion provided by nationally and internationally-recognized experts.Standardized approach across organ systems and chapters.Expanded use of diagnostic approach to help physicians consider relevant clinical tests and outcomes in performing the rating.Required clinical information needed to rate a given condition.Clear step-by-step grading instructions in each chapter to promote consistent scoring of impairment ratings and to improve physician consistency.Simplified methodology presented between chapters.Contemporary, evidence-based concepts and terminology of disablement from the ICF.More comprehensive and expanded diagnostic approach.Transparent process to allow the evaluator to document functional assessment, clinical tests and physician findings.Uniform grids to help physicians calculate impairment ratings.

Book Information

Series: Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment

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Customer Reviews

If you’re going to do Impairment Ratings using the 6th Edition, you must not buy the original 1st edition. You must buy the 2nd (revised) 6th Edition. There are over 50 pages of corrections to the 1st edition. It makes no sense to buy the 1st Edition, even if you can get the corrections for free.

This new version makes rating disability impairment much more difficult that the prior editions. For instance, in the past to rate for injuries to the spine you merely looked at one table. Now you have to look as several different tables to rate the contributing value of the History, Physical, Functional tests, Images and Pain to come up with a composite score. Jeffrey M. Kagan, MD

the drastic changes from 5th to 6th in some chapters is without rationale and not accurate in my clinical experience. a couple chapters we were told to completely disregard by the peer reviewers at a seminar that was supposed to teach how to use the Guides. Make no sense to put out guidelines that significantly impact so many patients’ lives when there is no consensus on their worth. just a waste IMO

Slimmed down but comes with a separate addendum of changes which is nearly impossible to keep with the book when we have one for each doctor floating around.

This editions provides a much better analysis of RSD/CRPS than either the 4th or 5th editions. It

also, for the first time, contains a methodolgy for rating mental impairment and translating it into ordinal scales. Unfortunately it contains so many errors that a huge supplement had to be issued (and is available for free on the AMA website). These are not just typographical errors but are errors of substance.The 3rd edition of the Guides Casebook is also a must have.

The sixth edition of "The Guides" offers a slimmed-down version of the Fifth Edition, with sleaker looking tables and example boxes. On first glance, the differences are subtle. Certain deficiencies, such as using congenital disease in the examples, were propagated from the Fifth Edition.

As a physiatrist performing an average of one impairment rating a day, the 6th Edition came abruptly as a required tool. It took about 20 ratings to get into the swing of things. The big problem is the simple story of supply and reimbursement that US doctors face: It takes about twice as long to do a rating with the 6th edition in the common chapters (15,16, 17: arm, leg, spine/pelvis).Like everything else that insurance pays for, us greedy doctor types are working more and getting paid less.The book, in my estimation, is fairer, with ratings consistently decreased by about 40%.

Garbled and confusing. In an attempt to clarify previous editions, this one simply adds another level of ambiguity.

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