



## Qualification Requirements to Obtain Authorization as a Qualified Doctor to Perform WC Examinations / Evaluations in American Samoa

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No medical physician or doctor shall perform any workmen's compensation examination or evaluation unless authorized and deemed qualified by American Samoa Workmen's Compensation Commission, unless such physician or doctor is employed and resides abroad and certified to perform such required services under laws of the United States. All standards and policies aim to regulate the certification and authorization of qualified doctors in the Territory shall be determined solely by the Commission.

The Commission's Medical Officer will oversee the review and recommendations of all certifications, qualifications, standards, and policy requirements on the designation of doctors for the Commission's approval.

In case of shortage of qualified doctors in the Territory, the Commission may waive all or some of the certification standards upon recommendation of the Medical Officer. If an employee is temporarily located or residing outside of the Territory for treatments, the certification requirement will be waived if the employee decides to acquire the service of a qualified and certified medical doctor residing and practicing at such location to perform a workmen's compensation examination. However, any examination conducted by such a doctor must meet and abide with guidelines set by the American Medical Association unless deemed as otherwise by the Commission.

For authorization to become a qualified and designated doctor to perform any medical evaluation or examination under the territory's workmen's compensation system, the following qualification requirements must be fully met. Qualified doctors will be certified every two years.

### **Qualification Requirements to Obtain Authorization:**

- (1) A valid medical license issued by a recognized medical institute or authority to practice medicine in the Territory or in any of the states or territories of the United States of America;
- (2) Actively maintain a medical practice for three or more years on a specific body part;
- (3) Completed or taken certification courses or training on evaluating permanent impairment using guidelines set by the American Medical Association;
- (4) Owns or subscribes to any edition of permanent impairment guide published by the American Medical Association;
- (5) Have successfully rendered more than three permanent impairment examinations without a deferral by the employee for a second opinion;
- (6) Any other requirements and standards as deemed necessary by the Commission and the Medical Officer to improve the certifications of designated doctors.

### **Rejection or Revocation of Certification:**

An applicant's application or a qualified doctor's certification may be rejected or revoke on the following conditions:

- (1) The applying doctor is retired;
- (2) The doctor having a history and record of malpractice or any related violations;
- (3) Medical license has been revoked;
- (4) Not practiced for more than 5 or more years;
- (5) Having an excessive pattern of overturned reports by the court;
- (6) Inability to provide examinations in a timely and proper manner;
- (7) Demonstrates inability to apply and evaluate proper permanent impairment ratings using guidelines set by the American Medical Association on permanent impairment;
- (8) Having numerous of complaints and grievance suits by patients;
- (9) Has a record of making partial and discriminating examinations and evaluations; or
- (10) Other actions deemed by the Commission to affect and violate the administering of A.S.C.A. §32.0638.

### **How to Apply for Authorization / Renewal:**

- To apply, applicant must submit and file a completed FORM ME-05 with the Commission's Office. FORM ME-05 may be obtained directly at the Commission's Office or online.
- For re-certification, FORM ME-05 must be submitted within 10-days after the expiration of the certification.