

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DWD
 Department of Workforce Development

Disability Ratings and Medical Reports

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 Dispute Resolution Specialists

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Topics

- Introduction
- Scheduled & Unscheduled Injuries
- Amputation and Loss of Use
- Statutory Minimum PPD Ratings
- Additional PPD Considerations
 - Multipliers
 - Deductions
 - Apportionment

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Dispute Resolution Specialists

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Jasmine Decorah	PPD, Advances, ADR
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Karee Williams	PPD, Delays, ADR, Internal Training
Kati Zieroth	Hearing Loss, Vision Loss

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PTD versus PPD

- **Unscheduled** (body as a whole = 1,000 weeks)
 - Head (including smell)
 - Torso (including spine and kidneys)
 - Systemic
- **Scheduled** (compared to amputation, loss of use)
 - Extremities (including peripheral joints)
 - Hearing
 - Vision



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Rating Disability

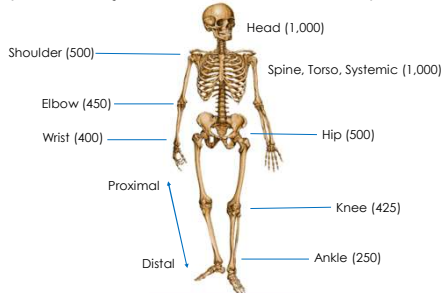
- **Amputation**
 - Anatomic level of bone loss
- **Loss of use**
 - Percentage of total loss
- **Hearing (DWD 80.25)**
 - Pre- and post-audiogram formula
- **Vision (DWD 80.26)**
 - Acuity, field of vision, other
- <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wcppd>



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Body and Major Joints Weeks of Compensation



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Foot Injury Weeks of Compensation Due

Great Toe 2nd 3rd 4th 5th

Distal interphalangeal joint (DIP)
Proximal interphalangeal joint (PIP)
Metatarsal phalangeal joint (MTP)
Tarsal metatarsal joint (TMT)

Subtalar joint (talocalcaneal) between talus and calcaneus bones
Ankle joint (talocalcaneal) between tibia and talus bones (D50)

Distal phalanges = Red
Middle phalanges = Blue
Proximal phalanges = Green

Distal level (Dist)
Middle level (Mid)
Proximal level (Prox)

Metatarsal Level (Meta)
Tarsal bones (left to right, dist to prox): Med. tarsal, and Lat. Cuneiform, Cuboid, Navicular and Calcaneus

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Hand Weeks of Compensation Due

Little (5th) Ring (4th) Middle (3rd) Index (2nd) Thumb (1st)

Fingertip (distal phalanx) amputations:
• Less than or equal to 1/3 = 45%
• Between 1/3 and 2/3 = 80%
• Greater than 2/3 = 100%

Distal interphalangeal joint (DIP)
Proximal interphalangeal joint (PIP)
Metacarpophalangeal joint (MCP)
Carpometacarpal joint (CMC)
Wrist Joint

Distal phalanges = Red
Middle phalanges = Blue
Proximal phalanges = Green

Distal level (Dist)
Middle level (Mid)
Proximal level (Prox)

Metacarpal level (Meta)

Amputation at:
Palm where thumb remains = 325
All fingers at proximal level = 225
Wrist joint = 400

Carpal bones (from radial "thumb" to ulnar "little" side)
Top row: Trapezium, Trapezoid, Capitate, Hamate
Bottom row: Scaphoid, Lunate, Triquetrum, Pisiform

Ulna Radius

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Amputations

- Fingers (DWD 80.33)
 - Distal phalanx
 - Rule of 1/3's
 - Mid or prox phalanx
 - Comparative X-rays
- Other
 - Joint proximal to amp

DISTAL PHALANX

- Less than or equal to 1/3 = 45%
- Between 1/3 and 2/3 = 80%
- Greater than 2/3 = 100%


Distal interphalangeal joint
Middle phalanx
Proximal interphalangeal joint
Proximal phalanx

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Loss of Use

**How To
Evaluate
Permanent
Disability**



- Statutory minimum ratings (DWD 80.32)
 - Several procedures
 - Lost range of motion
 - Nerve injuries
 - Other
 - <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/publications/wc/wkc-7761-p.htm>




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Statutory Minimum Ratings

- Assumptions
 - Excellent surgical outcome
 - No prior disability
- Other elements of disability: **if present, shall result in a higher estimate:**
 - Pain
 - Weakness
 - Activity limitations
 - Altered sensation
 - Unstable grafts




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Amputations DWD 80.32(2)

- Involves upper extremity proximal to the wrist or lower extremity proximal to the ankle
- Stump can accommodate prosthesis: equals amputation at midpoint between the joints distal and proximal to injury
- Stump cannot accommodate prosthesis: equals amputation at the more proximal joint



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Amputation Example

- Below the knee amputation (BKA):
 - If amputation cannot accommodate a prosthesis = 425 weeks (knee)
 - If amputation can accommodate a prosthesis
 $425 \text{ weeks (knee)} - 250 \text{ weeks (ankle)} = 175 \text{ weeks}$
 $175 / 2 = 87.5 \text{ weeks}$
 $250 \text{ weeks} + 87.5 \text{ weeks} = 337.5 \text{ weeks}$



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Hip DWD 80.32(3)

- Prosthesis
 - Total hip arthroplasty (THA) = 40%
 - Partial hip replacement/hemiarthroplasty = 35%
- Fusion, optimum position = 50%
- Lost motion of flexion, extension, internal rotation, external rotation, abduction, adduction
- Shortening of the leg by at least 3/4 inch = 5%
 - Stat min increases with the amount of leg shortening



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Hip Examples

- Fracture of femur extending through femoral head, status post partial hip replacement
 - Partial hip replacement/hemiarthroplasty = 35%
 - Replacement of any portion of the prosthesis, including hip resurfacing, is considered a partial joint replacement
 - Partial hip replacement with residual 3/4 inch leg shortening = $35\% + 5\% = 40\%$

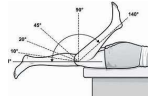



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Knee DWD 80.32(4)

- Prosthesis
 - Total knee arthroplasty (TKA) = 50%
 - Partial knee replacement/unicompartamental knee arthroplasty (UKA) = 45%
 - Replacement of any portion of the prosthesis = partial joint replacement
- Fusion, optimum position = 40%

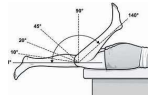




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Knee DWD 80.32(4)

- Remaining degrees of flexion
 - 90° = 10%
 - 45° = 25%
- Anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) repair = 10%
- Meniscectomy = 5%





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Knee Examples

- Tear of medial meniscus status post repair (without removing meniscal tissue)
 - No statutory minimum rating
- Tear of anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and medial meniscus status post ACL repair and partial meniscectomy
 - PPD = 10% (ACL) + 5% (meniscectomy) = 15%
- Pre-existing arthritis (DJD) aggravated by injury, status post total knee replacement
 - Total knee replacement = 50%
 - No deductions for pre-existing conditions


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Ankle DWD 80.32(5)

- Prosthesis – no stat min, doctors should interpolate based on minimum ratings for other joint replacements
- Fusion, optimum position = 40%
 - Total loss of motion of both the tibiotalar and subtalar joints



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Ankle DWD 80.32(5)

- Loss of dorsi and plantar flexion = 30%
 - Tibiotalar fusion
 - 15% stat min for dorsiflexion and 15% stat min for plantar flexion
- Loss of inversion and eversion = 15%
 - Triple arthrodesis
 - 7.5% stat min for inversion and 7.5% stat min for eversion



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Ankle Examples

- Ankle fracture, status post open reduction internal fixation (ORIF), residual lost dorsiflexion 50%
 - Total loss of dorsiflexion = 15% x 50% = 7.5%
- Same ORIF, residual lost dorsiflexion = 10°, lost plantarflexion = 20°, lost inversion = 15°, lost eversion = 10°
 - Loss of dorsiflexion = 10/20 = 50%, 15% (total loss) x 50% = **7.5%**
 - Loss of plantarflexion = 20/40 = 50%, 15% (total loss) x 50% = **7.5%**
 - Loss of inversion = 15/30 = 50%, 7.5% (total loss) x 50% = **3.75%**
 - Loss of eversion = 10/20 = 50%, 7.5% (total loss) x 50% = **3.75%**
 - Total for lost motion = **22.5%**



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Toes DWD 80.32(6)

- Fusion of great toe at proximal joint = 50%
- Fusion of all other toes at proximal joint = 40%
- Fusion of great toe at distal joint = 15%



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Toe Example

- Great toe crushed, status post fusion of all great toe joints
 - Great toe fusion at proximal joint = 50%
 - Great toe fusion at distal joint = 15%



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Shoulder DWD 80.32(7)

- Prosthesis = 50%
 - Includes all types of shoulder replacements: total shoulder arthroplasty (TSA), reverse shoulder arthroplasty, partial shoulder arthroplasty, shoulder resurfacing
- Fusion, optimum position = 55%
- Remaining degrees of forward flexion and abduction
 - 135° = 5%
 - 90° = 20%
 - 45° = 30%



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Shoulder Examples

- Rotator cuff tear treated conservatively, forward flexion and abduction limited to 90°
 - 90° = 20%
- Rotator cuff tear treated surgically, forward flexion and abduction limited to 120°
 - Interpolate 120° = 10%
- Shoulder resurfacing with forward flexion and abduction limited to 135° (worse than expected outcome)
 - 50% + 5% = 55%



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Elbow DWD 80.32(8)

- Prosthesis – no stat min; doctors should interpolate based on minimum ratings for other joint replacements
- Fusion, optimum position = 60%
- Total loss supination = 10%
- Total loss pronation = 15%
- Total loss flexion/extension = 45%
 - Extension: Degrees lost x 0.2222 = PPD%
 - Flexion: Degrees lost x 0.1666 = PPD%



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Elbow Examples

- Loss supination = 45° versus 90° on uninjured side = 50%
 - 10% (for total loss) x 50% = 5%
- Lost flexion = 20° and lost supination = 30°
 - Flexion: 20° x 0.1666 = 3.3%
 - Supination: 33% loss = 10% x 33% = 3.3%
 - Total for lost motion = 6.6%
- Elbow fusion (optimum position)
 - Stat min for fusion = 60%



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Wrist DWD 80.32(9)

- Prosthesis – no stat min; doctors should interpolate based on minimum ratings for other joint replacements
- Fusion, optimum position = 30%
- Total loss dorsiflexion = 12.5%
- Total loss palmar flexion = 7.5%
- Total loss inversion = 5%
- Total loss eversion = 5%



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Wrist Examples

- Loss of dorsiflexion = 30° (normal range = 60°)
 - Total loss dorsiflexion = 12.5% x 50% = 6.25%
- Loss of dorsiflexion = 30° and loss of supination = 40° (normal range = 80°)
 - Dorsiflexion = 12.5% x 50% = 6.25%
 - Supination (measured at elbow) = 10% x 50% = 5%
 - Total for lost motion = 6.25% @ wrist and 5% @ elbow



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Complete Sensory Loss DWD 80.32(10)

- Any digit = 50%
 - Palmar sensory loss only = 35%
 - Dorsal sensory loss only = 15%
- Median nerve thenar paralysis with sensory loss = 40 - 50% at wrist
- Peroneal nerve paralysis (foot drop) = 25 - 30% at knee



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Sensory Loss Examples

- Severe carpal tunnel with residual weakness and sensory loss
 - Interpolate from complete paralysis = 40 - 50% at wrist
- Lateral collateral ligament (LCL) repair (at knee) with residual foot drop requiring ankle foot orthosis (AFO)
 - No stat min for LCL; foot drop = peroneal nerve paralysis = 25 - 30% at knee
- L3-4 disc herniation with residual foot drop requiring AFO
 - Foot drop = peroneal nerve paralysis = 25 - 30% at knee



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Back (Spine) DWD 80.32(11)

- Surgery
 - Relieve from the effects of a disc lesion or spinal cord pressure = 5% per level
 - Laminectomy
 - Facetectomy
 - Other
 - Fusion = 5% per level
 - Instrumentation
 - Cages with bone graft
 - Artificial disc = 7.5% per level
- Compression fractures = 5% per level if symptomatic



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Spine Examples

- Symptomatic lumbar disc herniation treated successfully with laminectomy
 - Surgical decompression = 5%
- T9 compression fracture, treated conservatively, requires lifting restrictions at end of healing
 - Stat min = 5%
- L3 burst fracture with L2-L4 decompression and fusion
 - Surgical decompression = 5% per level, fusion = 5% per level
 - Stat min total = 20%




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Spine Examples

- Symptomatic lumbar disc herniation treated conservatively with residual sensory loss and need for lifting restrictions
 - No stat min for conservative treatment, but residual elements of disability mean that rating should be more than 0%
- Bad car crash resulting in C5-6 disc herniation treated with artificial disc and L4-5 and L5-S1 disc herniations treated with decompression and fusion
 - Artificial disc = 7.5%
 - Surgical decompression and fusion = 10% per level
 - Stat min total = 27.5%



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Fingers DWD 80.32(12)




- Range of Motion
- Lost Sensation
- Amputations
- Other Elements


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Fingers DWD 80.32(12)


Complete Ankylosis (surgical or non-surgical fusion)			
Joint(s)		Mid Position	Complete Ext
Thumb	Distal	25%	35%
	Proximal	15%	20%
	Distal and Proximal	35%	65%
	Carpometacarpal (CMC)	20%	20%
	Distal, Proximal, and CMC	85%	100%
Fingers	Distal	25%	35%
	Middle	75%	85%
	Proximal	40%	50%
	Distal and Middle	85%	100%
	Distal, Middle and Proximal	100%	100%


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Fingers DWD 80.32(12)


Sensory Loss - Fingers			
	Entire Digit	Palmar	Dorsal
Any Digit	50%	35%	15%


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Finger Amputations


- Fingertip (distal phalanx)
 - Less than or equal to 1/3 = 45%
 - Between 1/3 and 2/3 = 80%
 - Greater than 2/3 = 100%
- Middle or proximal phalanx or metacarpal bone
 - Ratio of residual bone vs. normal on comparative x-ray (rated at more proximal joint)


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Kidney and Loss of Smell DWD 80.32(13), (14)

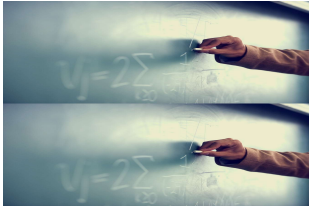
- Loss of one kidney = 5%
- Total loss of sense of smell = 2.5%



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Additional PPD Considerations

- Multipliers
- Stacking
- Deductions
- Apportionment






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Multipliers

- Multiple Injuries (Wis. Stat. 102.53)
 - Equal or lesser disabled parts = 20%
 - Multiple injuries to different fingers of hand
 - First equal or lesser disability = 100%
 - Second + third equal or lesser disability = 150%
 - Both eyes = 200%
- Dominant hand (Wis. Stat. 102.54) when rating at least 100% of distal joint = 25%





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Standard Multiplier


- Claimant falls on steps causing R knee and wrist pain
- R knee anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear repaired surgically
- Residual R wrist pain and stiffness
 - 10% PPD for knee (stat min) = $425 \times .10 = 42.5$ weeks
 - 2% PPD for wrist = $400 \times .02 = 8$ weeks
 - Lesser injury 20% multiplier = $8 \times .20 = 1.6$ weeks
 - Total PPD = $42.5 + 8 + 1.6 = 52.1$ weeks


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Hand Lesser Injury Multipliers


- R hand caught in a machine
- Amputation R middle finger 50% of distal phalanx
- Residual R index and ring finger pain and stiffness
 - 80% PPD for middle finger DIP (stat min) = $8 \times .80 = 6.4$ weeks
 - 10% PPD for index finger MCP = $50 \times .10 = 5$ weeks
 - 10% PPD for ring finger MCP = $20 \times .10 = 2$ weeks
 - First lesser injury 100% multiplier = $5 \times 1.0 = 5$ weeks
 - Second lesser injury 150% multiplier = $2 \times 1.5 = 3$ weeks
 - Total PPD = $6.4 + 5 + 5 + 2 + 3 = 21.4$ weeks


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Dominant Hand Multiplier


- R hand caught in a machine
- Amputation of R middle finger 100% of distal phalanx
- Residual R index and ring finger pain and stiffness
 - 100% PPD for middle finger DIP (stat min) = $8 \times 1.0 = 8$ weeks
 - 10% PPD for index finger MCP = $50 \times .10 = 5$ weeks
 - 10% PPD for ring finger MCP = $20 \times .10 = 2$ weeks
 - Dominant hand multiplier = $8 \times .25 = 2$ weeks
 - First lesser injury 100% multiplier = $5 \times 1.0 = 5$ weeks
 - Second lesser injury 150% multiplier = $2 \times 1.5 = 3$ weeks
 - Total PPD = $8 + 2 + 5 + 5 + 2 + 3 = 25$ weeks



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Stacking

- Statutory minimum surgeries related to same injury date
 - For dates of injury after 4-1-26 does not apply if same procedure repeated
 - Meniscectomy with subsequent total knee replacement - Yes
 - Redo joint replacements – not after 4-1-26
 - Spinal decompression and fusion surgeries - depends
- Rating cannot exceed 100%
 - Madison Gas & Electric v. LIRC (2011)




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Stacking

- Construction worker steps in unseen hole and twists knee
- R medial meniscus tear and ACL tear treated surgically
 - 10% PPD for ACL repair (stat min) = $425 \times .10 = 42.5$ weeks
 - 5% PPD for meniscectomy (stat min) = $425 \times .05 = 21.25$ weeks
 - Total PPD = $42.5 + 21.25 = 63.75$ weeks
- 5 years later, total knee replacement attributed to first injury
 - 50% PPD for total knee (stat min) = $425 \times .50 = 212.5$ weeks
 - Total PPD = $42.5 + 21.25 + 212.5 = 276.25$ weeks



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Stacking

- 10 years later, original total knee replacement must be replaced by a new total knee
 - 50% PPD for total knee (stat min) = $425 \times .50 = 212.5$ weeks
 - Total PPD = $42.5 + 21.25 + 212.5 + 212.5 = 488.75$ weeks
 - **No**, PPD capped at 100% of value of knee joint = 425 weeks (injury prior to 4-1-26)
 - **No**, PPD for repeat total knee replacement not automatically stacked, doctor needs to assign additional disability (if any)
Total PPD = $42.5 + 21.25 + 212.5 + ? = 276.25$ weeks (injury after 4-1-26)



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Deductions

- Distal disabilities deducted from proximal disabilities before applying % rating for proximal disability
- Scheduled disabilities deducted from unscheduled disabilities
 - Pre-existing conditions do not apply
 - Multipliers are not deducted (DWD 80.50)



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Distal from Proximal Disability

- Old R thumb DIP amp, new fall onto outstretched R arm
- R rotator cuff tear treated surgically
 - 5% PPD for rotator cuff repair
 - R thumb DIP 100% amputation = $50 \times 1.0 = 50$ weeks
 - Value of shoulder with distal deduction = $500 - 50 = 450$ weeks (no multipliers considered here)
 - Total PPD = $450 \times .05 = 22.5$ weeks



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Scheduled from Unscheduled Injury

- Fall injures neck and left shoulder
- L rotator cuff tear surgically repaired
- C5-6 disc herniation treated with decompression and fusion
 - 5% for L rotator cuff repair = $500 \times .05 = 25$ weeks
 - 10% for C5-6 decompression and fusion = $1000 \times .10 = 100$ weeks
 - Lesser injury multiplier = $25 \text{ weeks} \times 20\% = 5$ weeks
 - $1000 - 25 = 975$ weeks
 - $975 \times .10 = 97.5$ weeks
 - Total PPD = $25 + 97.5 + 5 = 127.5$ weeks



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Apportionment

- For two (2) or more distinct injuries, liability apportioned according to proof of relative contribution to disability from each injury
- Disability caused by other factors, before or after disabling work injury, can be deducted
- Traumatic injuries only
 - Does not apply to occupational exposures (Wis. Stat. 102.175)




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Apportionment

- Injured shoulder from fall at work
- Before end of healing, non-work-related car crash aggravates shoulder injury
 - 10% disability assigned to shoulder = $500 \times .10 = 50$ weeks
 - Doctor attributes 50% of PPD to fall and 50% to car crash
 - Total PPD owed by insurer = $50 \times .50 = 25$ weeks


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Questions?


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