



Learning the AMA Guidelines:

Training Course Provides Information on the Key Essentials Needed to Complete a PPI Rating

*American Medical Association's Guide to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment
(6th Edition, 2008)*

Illinois just enacted impairment ratings as part of the entire package of factors to be considered in determining permanent partial disability. Many individuals in the medical industry are asking where to go to learn the American Medical Association's Guide to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (6th edition, 2008).

Dr. David J. Fletcher of SafeWorks Illinois has created a 90 to 120 minute training course on the AMA Guidelines (6th edition). These guidelines are a **treatise for physicians on how to rate a permanent partial impairment** (PPI) rating in patients. As a result of the 2011 Illinois Workers' Compensation reform, physician-generated PPI ratings are being considered for determination of permanent partial disability (PPD) awards for the first time. This short course condenses a similar two-day, 15 hour course into the key essentials with a focus on musculoskeletal issues only. This training will allow any orthopedic surgeon, occupational medicine physician, primary care physician, or physical and rehabilitation medicine physician to be able to complete a **PPI rating**. The determination of PPI is similar to preparation of income taxes: it can be done accurately and without fan-fare if one is organized and has all the necessary data; simply enter the data into the appropriate table to determine the PPI rating.

The **AMA Guidelines** were not designed nor were they ever intended to be used to define disability as part of the Illinois Workers' Compensation system. They were designed to rate 'impairment', which is not the same as disability. *Impairment* refers to the objective determination of the loss of a person's range of motion, strength, and/or the person's ability to function in activities of daily living as the result of an injury or illness. Whereas, *disability* refers to a person's inability to function in the work place due to a physical or mental impairment and is determined by the legal system.

Please note: this is a training course with no set schedule. Dr. Fletcher is currently being hired by various employer groups, law firms and medical groups to do the course onsite. He is working in conjunction with the Illinois State Medical Society to teach this course 6 times throughout the state within the coming 12 months.

Please visit the SafeWorks Illinois website if you are interested in scheduling this training session with Dr. Fletcher: <http://www.safeworksillinois.com/contact-safeworks.html> or contact him directly via email djfletcher@safeworksillinois.com or by phone at 217.356.6150.