

AMA Guideline Changes and the Impact on Impairment Ratings:

- In 1997 SB 67 was passed.
 - 39-71-1006 (1)(a)(ii)
 - Workers with injuries resulting in impairment rating of 15% or greater with no wage loss associated are eligible for vocational rehab benefits.
 - At the time, AMA 4th Edition Guidelines
 - NCCI estimated overall costs impact was +0.2%
- In December 2000 AMA 5th Edition Guidelines Published
 - NCCI estimated overall costs impact of +1.5% as a result of the switch
 - Attributed mainly to 3% add on for pain introduced in 5th Edition
 - Average Impairment Ratings Increased 16%
 - Used methods from 2012 NCCI study “Impact on Impairment Ratings From Switching to the American Medical Association 6th Edition of the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment”

	4th Edition		5th Edition	
	MMI Year 1999 Injury Years 1997-1999	MMI Year 2000 Injury Years 1998-2000	MMI Year 2002 Injury Years 2000-2002	MMI Year 2003 Injury Years 2001-2003
Average	7.93	7.32	8.91	8.82
Median	5.00	5.00	7.00	6.00
Claims	528	543	475	471

*2001 excluded because MMI date may not accurately reflect rating date for this year

- In 2008 AMA 6th Edition Guidelines Introduced
 - A re-creation of the NCCI analysis showed a 32% decrease in impairment ratings

	5th Edition		6th Edition	
	MMI Year 2006 Injury Years 2004-2006	MMI Year 2007 Injury Years 2005-2007	MMI Year 2008 Injury Years 2006-2008	MMI Year 2009 Injury Years 2007-2009
Average	8.87	8.79	6.21	5.92
Median	6.00	6.00	4.00	4.00
Claims	492	599	750	1037

* NCCI study on change from 5th to 6th showed average impairment ratings declined by 28% in MT

- Since SB 67 was passed in 1997 average impairment ratings have had an overall decrease of 21%
 - Based on DLI ERD in-house calculations modeling previous NCCI methods
 - Using NCCI results for 5th to 6th edition switch, overall decrease is 17%