

Appendix 2 (as supplied by the authors): Concordance between recommendations informed by our systematic review and Canadian IME guidelines

Components Suggested by our Systematic Review	CSME Report Writing Guidelines for Psychiatric Impairments	CPSO: Third party reports	Medico-Legal Society of Toronto Guidelines and Detailed Outline for Medico-Legal Reports ¹
<i>Steps prior to an IME</i>			
review the patient's medical records		+	+
use validated questionnaires to measure function or the impact of unhelpful beliefs			
<i>Steps at the start of an IME</i>			
establish an optimal rapport with the examinee		+	
explain the purpose of the IME	+	+	+
disclose the requesting party			
disclose who the report will be released to	+		+
clarify that the examinee will have no subsequent contact with assessors			
obtain a signed consent form acknowledging the nature and purpose of the assessment, release of information, and approval to undergo an IME	+	+	+
deny requests by the examinee to record the session		+/- ²	
generally refuse requests to have observers present		+/- ³	
<i>Components of the IME patient history</i>			
biopsychosocial history	+		+
pre-existing conditions and prior injuries	+		+
function prior to disability			
what examinees believe contributed to their inability to maintain employment			
circumstances surrounding	+		+

Appendix to: Busse JW, Bruun-Meyer SE, Ebrahim S, et al. A 45-year-old woman referred for an independent medical examination by her insurer. *CMAJ* 2014. DOI:10.1503/cmaj.130863.

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the injury or start of illness			
explore all assessments	+		+
establish current treatment and providers	+		
all treatment and results on disabling symptoms and functional ability	+		+
current level of functioning			+
any efforts to return to work	+		
the nature and intensity of current complaints	+		+
relieving and exacerbating factors			
address inconsistencies between the written record and the examinees' historical report			+
examinees' perception of how their condition should be managed			
examinees' degree of hopefulness about recovery and return to work			
establish to what extent they perceive their condition requires restrictions	+		+
Assessment for symptom exaggeration			
the examiner should incorporate both testing and clinical findings	+/- ⁴		+
Components of the IME patient examination			
focus on objective tests as motivation can influence subjective testing			
if further assessment is required by another clinical speciality, the report should include recommendations to that effect	+		
mental status exam should include an assessment of presentation, cooperation, mood and affect, as well as thought form, content and perception, recall, and insight	+		

and judgement			
Components of the IME report			
summarize the medical record review	+	+	+
the patient interview			
examination findings			
defensible conclusions, including a DSM-V 5-axis diagnosis for mental health conditions		+/- ⁵	+
a disclaimer acknowledging the limitations of a single examination			
use lay language	+	+	+
avoid unsupported conclusions, emotional statements or comments that may be derogatory to the examinee or treating providers		+	+
unless assessors possess the required expertise and information, they should not comment on examinee's ability to resume employment		+	

Key:

¹ The scope of this document is limited to personal injury cases in Ontario, which include motor vehicle injury and medical malpractice cases

² The CPSO Report acknowledges that there may be requests to record the IME, but provides no recommendations

³ The CPSO Report acknowledges that there may be requests for observers to attend the IME, but provides no recommendations

⁴ The CSME Guidelines suggest only that psychometric instruments should be used to detect symptom exaggeration

⁵ The CPSO Report recommends that IME assessors only report defensible conclusions, but do not state that diagnosis regarding mental health conditions should be presented according to the DSM-5-diagnoses.

+: recommendation is concordant with the systematic review

+/-: recommendation is partially concordant with the systematic review

-: recommendation is not concordant with the systematic review

'blank' cells indicate that there was no advice provided by the guideline relevant to the item endorsed by the systematic review

Abbreviations: CSME: Canadian Society of Medical Examiners; CPSO: College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario; DSM-V: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association, 5th edition; IME: independent medical examination.