

IME Facilities Survey

Highlights

- Excluding physicians, IME facilities employ a fairly small number of employees in Oregon. Two facilities employ five or less, five between six and ten, one between eleven and fifteen, and one facility has more than fifteen employees. The number of managerial/supervisory employees was five or less for the eight facilities who completed the question. Support staff was ten or less for seven of the facilities. Only one facility had greater than ten support employees.
- Nine of the facilities reported that they maintain satellite offices or lease space from other physicians for the purpose of conducting IMEs. Eight of these reported that the number of satellite offices maintained was ten or less.
- Four facilities are part of, or associated with, regional or national firms.
- Out-of-state Oregon IMEs are performed by six of the facilities. Two reported they conduct about ten out of state exams and one facility reported about 50 out-of-state exams were conducted. None of the facilities send workers out of state for an IME examination.
- Three facilities contract or employ fifty or less physicians. Another four contract or employ between fifty-one and one hundred physicians. The remaining two facilities contract with or employ over one hundred physicians.
- Three facilities reported that fifty or fewer physicians worked for other facilities and three reported that between 51 and 100 worked for other facilities.
- The number of physicians that also maintain private practice was fifty or less for five of the facilities, between 51 and 100 for two facilities, and over 100 for another two facilities.
- When asked how many of their physicians consider themselves semi-retired, seven reported 50 or fewer physicians and two facilities reported that 51 to 100 physicians considered themselves semi-retired.
- Quality assurance processes to monitor the quality and content of physicians' IME reports are maintained by all ten of the facilities that completed the survey.
- Four facilities reported they performed between one and two thousand total examinations and three facilities reported they perform between two and three thousand examinations per year. Of these, one facility reported between 100 and 500 of the exams were related to workers' compensation claims and workers' compensation IMEs, four facilities reported between one and two thousand, and two facilities reported between two and three thousand.

- Nine facilities perform chart reviews, seven perform third-party liability case exams, six perform disability rating, five perform physical capacity, and five perform other types of exams. Other types of evaluations the facilities reported included auto claims, long and short term disability, railroad, longshoreman, and federal workers' compensation claims, and return to work IMEs.
- Seven IME facilities maintain contracts with workers' compensation insurance companies, two with service companies, and one with a self-insured employer.
- Four facilities reported they obtain information from workers' compensation patients regarding their IME experience.
- When asked about the number of complaints they received from patients about the examinations, one facility reported zero, eight facilities reported ten or fewer, and one facility reported between sixteen and twenty complaints received. Various ways are used to follow-up on complaints including contacting the IME doctor, the claims adjuster, and the patient.