PERMANENT IMPAIRMENT ASSESSMENTS

It’s what we do
Thank you for choosing Next Health Group. As WA’s largest provider of independent medical assessments, we are proud to put our team of specialised Occupational Physicians at your service.

You will find that not only are our specialists approachable, they are also committed to ensuring the most successful outcome is reached for your claim. With a diversity of specialties, they can ensure that the most dependable medical expertise and opinion is delivered, whatever your needs.

Need Help?

Should you need help, you can access one of our specialists through:

- **Live Chat**
- member service
- **Telephone:** (08) 9201 3300
- **Email:** info@nexthealth.com.au

What we do

Occupational Physicians are specialists and, like surgeons, undertake many years of post-graduate specialist training following their basic medical education.

The traditional definition of an Occupational Physician and what he/she does is “How a person’s work affects their health and how their health affects their work”.

However, this has changed dramatically over the last 5-10 years and you can now rely on an Occupational Physician to assist you in reducing the cost and duration of your claim.
Our Services

With years of specialist experience, not only can Next Health Occupational Physicians provide assessment of any area of the body, they can usually see claimants quicker and more cost effectively than their surgical colleagues.

Our Occupational Physicians can assist by determining whether the injury is work related, as well as whether the work duties have been a significant contributing factor under the Act.

We can also provide advice on work restrictions (hours and/or duties if appropriate), whether rehabilitation goals are reasonable, and provide advice about getting the worker back into the workforce quicker.

- Permanent impairment assessments
- Permanent disability assessments
- TPD assessments
- Causation and liability
- Return to work & rehabilitation
- Early intervention assessments
- Work site visits
- Saturday permanent impairment clinics
- Education
- Regional service
Dr Michael Bowles
Specialist Occupational Physician & Approved Medical Specialist (WA WorkCover)

**Expertise**
- With Next Health Group since 2013
- Over 17 years’ experience working as an Occupational Physician

**Areas of Special Interest**
- Industrial health
- Site visits
- Onsite work

**Additional Information**
- Provides regional services in Bunbury, Geraldton, Broome and Darwin

**TIP** Insist that all your treating allied health, rehabilitation and medical practitioners adhere to the *Clinical Framework for the Delivery of Health Services* as per the WorkCover WA recommendations.

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Dr Philip Carrivick
Specialist Occupational Physician & Approved Medical Specialist (WA WorkCover)

**Experience**
- With Next Health Group since 2008
- Past Director of Occupational Health for tertiary hospital and member of Commission of Safety and Health for WA
- Director of Occupational Health, Oxford University

**Areas of Special Interest**
- The health and tertiary education sectors
- CTP claims assessment

**Additional Information**
- Provides a regional service in Mandurah

**TIP** Effect early and supportive contact with the claimant. The longer the claimant is out of the workplace the longer it takes to get them back in – if they ever do.
Dr Brian Dare
Specialist Occupational Physician & Approved Medical Specialist (WA WorkCover)

Experience
• With Next Health Group since 2005
• Over 30 years’ experience as an Occupational Physician

Areas of Special Interest
• Liability issues
• Assessing scarring
• Assessment of illness associated with chemical, asbestos and dust exposure in the workplace
• Legionnaires’ disease

Additional Info:
• Conducts Saturday permanent impairment assessment clinics for workers who have already returned to work and who do not want to take time off during the working week.

TIP Carpal tunnel is not, on the whole, caused by work duties. There are specific duties and professions that make a worker more at risk but if you are unsure ask for specialist advice.

Dr Brian Galton-Fenzi
Specialist Occupational Physician & Approved Medical Specialist (WA WorkCover)

Experience
• With Next Health Group since 2006
• Over 30 years’ experience as an Occupational Physician

Areas of Special Interest
• Musculoskeletal injuries and pain management
• Heavy metals toxicology and chemical exposure in the workplace
• Respiratory and dermatological complaints in the workplace

TIP Pain management is useful in certain circumstances but like all other treatment should follow the Clinical Framework for the Delivery of Health Services as per the WorkCover WA recommendations.
Dr Alan Home
Specialist Occupational Physician & Approved Medical Specialist (WA WorkCover)

Experience
• With Next Health Group since 2011
• Over 20 years’ experience as an Occupational Physician

Areas of Special Interest
• Fitness for work
• Life (TPD, income protection and disability) insurance assessment
• Motor vehicle crash assessments

TIP Just because it happens at work doesn’t mean it is caused by work duties. If in doubt get a file review or an independent assessment before accepting liability.

Dr Michael Lucas
Specialist Occupational Physician & Approved Medical Specialist (WA WorkCover)

Experience
• With Next Health Group since 2007
• Over 30 years’ medical experience
• Advisor to the Department of Transport WA (Licensing)

Areas of Special Interest
• Mining sector injury management
• Transport industry injury management
• Drug and alcohol related assessments

TIP Epicondylitis (tennis or golfer’s elbow) is a self-limiting condition for which evidence suggesting that the effectiveness of treatment/surgery is limited. Ask for advice about the evidence base for any suggested treatment for this condition.
Dr Andrew Porteous
Specialist Occupational Physician & Approved Medical Specialist (WA WorkCover)

Experience
- With Next Health Group since 2013
- Over 15 years’ medical experience

Areas of Special Interest
- Oil & Gas sector injury management
- Motor vehicle crash injury assessments
- Work related injury rehabilitation

TIP If possible have a copy of the **AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Disease and Injury Causation (2nd Edition)** available in your workplace. This provides a comprehensive guide to understanding medical causation issues by experts in the field.

Dr John Suthers
Specialist Occupational Physician & Approved Medical Specialist (WA WorkCover)

Experience
- With Next Health Group since 2014
- Over 20 years’ experience in private practice
- International Oil & Gas Medical Officer for 13 years
- Military experience

Areas of Special Interest
- Oil & Gas sector injury management

TIP Ignore red flags at your peril – the outcome is rarely good in the presence of red flag warnings.
## Permanent Impairment

### WPI %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>WPI %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHOULDER</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Replacement</td>
<td>18 – 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excision of the distal clavicle/resection of acromioclavicular joint (no loss of ROM)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Impingement (no loss of ROM)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ELBOW</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extensor or tendonopathy/epicondylitis surgery (with residual pain)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARM</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ruptured long head of biceps (in isolation)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIP/KNEE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Replacement</td>
<td>15 – 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Partial meniscectomy (only)</td>
<td>1*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total meniscectomy (only)</td>
<td>3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medial and lateral meniscectomy (partial)</td>
<td>4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medial and lateral meniscectomy (total)</td>
<td>9*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tibial plateau fracture (undisplaced)</td>
<td>2*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patellofemoral pain (direct trauma, and crepitation on physical examination) but without joint space narrowing on x-rays</td>
<td>2*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cruciate or collateral ligament laxity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>10*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cruciate and collateral ligament laxity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>10*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>15*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KNEE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Muscle wasting/atrophy</td>
<td>1 – 1.9cm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 – 2.9cm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3cm +</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CERVICAL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neck strain</td>
<td>5 – 8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neck injury with persistent radiculopathy</td>
<td>15 – 18</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neck injury resulting in discectomy</td>
<td>15 – 18</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neck injury resulting in discectomy and persisting radiculopathy</td>
<td>18 – 20</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neck fusion</td>
<td>25 – 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neck fusion with persisting radiculopathy</td>
<td>27 – 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neck compression fractures</td>
<td>5 – 28</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LUMBAR</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Back strain</td>
<td>5 – 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Back injury with persistent radiculopathy</td>
<td>10 – 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Back injury resulting in discectomy</td>
<td>10 – 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Back injury resulting in discectomy and persisting radiculopathy</td>
<td>13 – 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lumbar spine fusion</td>
<td>20 – 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lumbar spine fusion with persisting radiculopathy</td>
<td>25 – 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lumbar compression fractures</td>
<td>5 – 23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Disclaimer:** These percentages are guide figures only and do not replace the methodology as set out by the AMA (5th Ed) and the WorkCover WA Guides (3rd Ed).

*These percentages apply only where there are no other ratable findings or this impairment method rates the highest. If other ratable findings apply they may be combinable in accordance with Table 17-2, page 526 (AMA 5th Ed).