

Workers' Compensation Glossary

AWW – Employee's average weekly wage.

Continued Medical Maintenance – When injured worker is entitled to or awarded continuing medical care after he/she have reached maximum medical improvement (MMI); i.e.: ongoing prescriptions or periodic doctor visits.

Disability Rating Charts – Provided by the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Court as a guideline to determine the amount of disability the injured worker is entitled to based off of his/her permanent partial disability (PPD) rating percentage.

Form A – Filed on litigated cases, employee's attorney files for a change of physician. The attorney must list three physicians from which a choice will be made and agreement for an evaluation and possible treatment. If there are objections or disagreement, the judge will determine the approved physician.

Form 2 – Employer's first report of injury.

Form 3 – Filed by employee's attorney when he/she is represented by private legal counsel.

Form 14 – This is a settlement option when the case is settled on the permanent partial disability (PPD) portion of the claim but the medical is left open in case the employee incurs a change of condition for the worse and requires further care.

Form 19 – Filed by medical provider for disputed or unpaid medical charges. Form 19 filings will set a court hearing to have the issue heard.

Future Medical – Term typically used when settling a case and the injured worker requires continued medical maintenance, money is added to cover "future medical" expenses.

IME – Independent medical exam. Medical exam to evaluate employee for disability/ratings or to determine if he/she needs continued care.

JP – Joint Petition. This is a full and final settlement. The injured worker cannot pursue any further benefits of any kind past the settlement date.

MMI – Maximum medical improvement. When injured worker has reached the end of treatment and is released from care.

NCM – Nurse case manager. Nurses hired to assist injured workers in attending appointments to help facilitate care, obtain medical records and act as a liaison for the injured worker.

PHC – Prehearing conference. Informal hearing so parties can bring disputed issues to the court and the judge will make a decision on the issue then or will set it for future trial.

PPD – Permanent partial disability. Determined disability due to the injury and based on the degree of permanent disability as rated when released from care.

PTD – Permanent total disability. Disability for injured worker when deemed unable to return to the workforce.

Rating Report – Requested from the treating physician at the time the employee is released from care (MMI) to determine if he/she has permanent partial disability (PPD) as a result of the injury. Sometimes the treating physician will not provide ratings and will schedule an independent medical exam (IME) with another physician.

TPD – Temporary partial disability: disability paid when an employee is working part-time or under restrictions but has not returned to working at full duty.

TTD – Temporary total disability: disability paid to the employee while off work.

VE – Vocational evaluation. Used to assess the employee's educational skills and work history/interest when he/she is unable to return to work at his/her current employer and will need different employment.