

Concurrence Regarding Preference for Iowa's Not Developing Its Own Impairment Guide

I concur with Ms. Parrish-Sams' opinion that Iowa should not develop its own impairment guide. Ms. Parrish-Sams based her opinion on a number of reasons. The reason she gave with which I concur is the monumental nature of such a task. I believe an impairment guide should be based on the consensus opinions of well-qualified medical experts. If the guide were based on the opinions of one individual or a small group, it would be less likely to represent well-accepted medical knowledge. While consensus medical opinion is not a high level quality of scientific evidence, it is better than none. Locating qualified physicians with the time and willingness to develop a guide in itself would be a huge undertaking. Developing a process to reach consensus, developing consensus, and developing internal consistency within the guide would also be formidable tasks. In short, I am skeptical that we could improve on the product developed by the AMA.

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