

Designated Doctor and MMI/IR Doctor Pre-course Cases

Non-Musculoskeletal Conditions MMI/IR

Case 1 - Traumatic Brain Injury

History of the Injury

- Injured employee fell from scaffolding, sustaining traumatic brain injury
- Developed seizures with unpredictable recurrences, requiring maintenance medication
- Able to return to work and perform most ADLs (driving, cooking)
- Neuropsych evaluation showed mild cognitive deficit
- Mild difficulty understanding and finding words, naming objects, following oral and written instructions

Question for DD: On MMI date, what is whole person IR?

Case 2 - Visual System

- IE struck in left eye and orbit with piece of wood
- Native lens intact bilaterally
- At MMI best corrected visual acuity
- Right eye distant 20/25, near 14/21
- Left eye distant 20/200, near 14/70
- Monocular visual field assessment via Goldman perimeter
- Peripheral vision left eye 480° (20° loss)
- No loss of visual field in right eye
- Normal ocular motility
- No diplopia

Question for DD: On MMI date, what is whole person IR?

Case 3 – Hernia

- IE sustained ventral and left inguinal hernias while working
- Underwent ventral hernia repair and left inguinal hernia repair, both with mesh
- At MMI no palpable defect in either surgical site
- With increased pressure maneuvers including Valsalva, coughing, and lifting head up while supine, slight protrusions in inguinal canal and abdominal hernia repair which were reducible
- Returned to work in warehouse lifting more than 50 pounds occasionally

Question for DD: On MMI date, what is whole person IR?

Case 4 – Skin

- Injured employee sustained 3rd degree burn to right arm and forearm which required skin grafting
- Some activities of daily living affected, including intolerance of sunlight exposure.
- Had to apply moisturizing cream daily to prevent skin from cracking

At MMI

- Grafting area atrophic, elevated and indurated
- Wrist ROM full
- Active elbow ROM
 - Extension minus 10°
 - Flexion 130°
 - Supination 70°
 - Pronation 70°
- Some decreased sensation over scar, but normal sensation proximal and distal to scar

- 5/5 strength of upper extremities bilaterally

Question for DD: On MMI date, what is whole person IR?

Case 5 – PTSD

- Convenience store clerk robbed and assaulted
- Subsequently diagnosed and treated for PTSD
- Treatment included focused cognitive behavioral therapy and Lexapro
- Psychological evaluation at MMI 12 months post injury reveals RTW in different job as retail stock clerk
- Complains of disrupted sleep due to nightmares about robbery
- Reports feeling hopeless about future and disinterested in activities previously found enjoyable
- Wife reports he is "jumpy" and not spending as much time with friends, including bi-weekly poker game
- Mood highly irritable and fighting much more than normal with wife
- Wife also reports he has begun to drink 2-5 alcoholic beverages most evenings

Question for DD: On MMI date, what is whole person IR?