

# Comprehensive Medicolegal Training: Establishing a Solid Foundation for Success

## eMedicoLegal - Web-Based Learning Systems

This cloud-based learning resource is designed for physicians (including chiropractic physicians), psychologists, physical therapists, nurses, and other healthcare providers who need the critical knowledge and skills to succeed in the medicolegal field. This course integrates with Chiropractic Forensics, Advanced Online Clinical Training in Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine.

This over hundred hours learning experience comprises web-based presentations, interactions, exercises, quizzes, activities, and assigned readings. It consists of nine monthly segments, each containing four weekly modules involving an average of 2.5 hours of learning. A dynamic cloud-based platform (Kajabi) delivers the content as a “drip,” i.e., the learner has access to the current (and past) content delivered weekly. It is then available 24/7.

The first segment provides the basic foundation (including potential arenas, clients, and services). You will learn how to use the *AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, Sixth Edition*. Next, you will learn about ethics and medicolegal Issues, the use of science, research and biostatistics, psychosocial issues, and personality and psychological issues. You will then learn how to evaluate critical issues, including assessing clinical issues with a biopsychosocial perspective, assessing the appropriateness of care: using science and guidelines, causation and apportionment analysis, functional assessment, workability, and disability. With this understanding, we will explore specific musculoskeletal injuries. Our next phase is exploring various arenas where you can provide service and the types of services. We conclude the training by developing expert witness skills.

This learning opportunity is not for someone unwilling to devote the time and funds required to succeed. You may stop at any time. If the learner effectively applies the information provided, there should be an excellent return on this investment.

### Objectives:

As a result of participation in this learning experience, the participant will be able to:

1. Discuss the opportunities and challenges for providing medicolegal expert services.
2. Explain the fields where you can provide service, including their needs and advantages and disadvantages of working in these fields.
3. Identify types of clients and their unique needs.
4. Discuss the types of services you can provide, including advantages and disadvantages.
5. Explain critical concepts regarding compensable injury and illness, work and health, diagnosis and treatment.
6. Demonstrate the ability to use medicolegal terms correctly.
7. Discuss key evaluation issues, including physical injury, illness, pain, behavioral aspects, psychological disorders, and comorbidities.
8. Demonstrate the ability to identify and utilize evidence-based medicine.
9. Demonstrate the ability to analyze causation and apportionment using evidence-based medicine.
10. Discuss the concept of maximal medical improvement.
11. Demonstrate the ability to assess permanent impairment.
12. Explain the process of function and work ability assessment.
13. Demonstrate how to access disability duration.
14. Explain critical issues in evaluating musculoskeletal (spine, upper extremities, and lower extremities), pain, nervous system, mental and behavioral, and medical disorders.

### Required Resources

The learner must have internet access via computer or tablet.

Participants are required to obtain publications (virtual or print) from the American Medical Association (AMA). This training program is separate from the AMA. The cost of these publications, a total of approximately \$890, is not included in the training fee. All medicolegal experts are encouraged to have these publications.

- AMA Guides All-Access Bundle required (\$599 for a year), including
  - *AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment*
  - *AMA Guides Newsletter*
- *AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Disease and Injury Causation* (Kindle, \$71.99)
- *AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Work Ability and Return to Work* (Kindle, \$59.99)
- *AMA Guides to Navigating Disability Benefit Systems* (Kindle, \$60.00)
- *Physician's Guide to Medicolegal Practice* (Kindle, \$100.65)

There are also numerous selected readings, e.g., articles.

Participants are also encouraged to have access to relevant online resources. These resources are also very useful in performing medicolegal work, e.g., ODG by MCG, MD Guidelines, and UpToDate.

## Schedule

Note, the following is organized as "S.M" where S reflects the segment (month) and M the module (week); e.g., 2.3 refers to Segment 2 and Module 3 (i.e., the second segment [month] and the third module [week] in that segment

### 1. Achieving Success in the Medicolegal Field – Foundations for Success and *AMA Guides*

#### 1.1. Introduction to the Field and the Learning Experience

- 1.1.1. Goals and Objectives
- 1.1.2. Orientation
- 1.1.3. Course Design and learning methods:
  - 1.1.3.1. Self-assessment (online process)
  - 1.1.3.2. Presentations (PowerPoint)
  - 1.1.3.3. Panel discussion and Interviews of leading experts
  - 1.1.3.4. Demonstrations
  - 1.1.3.5. Podcasts
  - 1.1.3.6. Assigned readings
    - 1.1.3.6.1. *AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment*, Sixth Edition
    - 1.1.3.6.2. *AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Disease and Injury Causation*
    - 1.1.3.6.3. *AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Work Ability and Return to Work*
    - 1.1.3.6.4. *AMA Guides to Navigating Disability Benefit Systems* - Kindle
    - 1.1.3.6.5. *Physician's Guide to Medicolegal Practice*
  - 1.1.3.7. Online complementary courses (e.g., *AMA Guides*, Sixth Edition – Mastery!
  - 1.1.3.8. Case and situational exercises
  - 1.1.3.9. Tasks, e.g., research issues and share findings, update curriculum vitae, develop LinkedIn presence, prepare a report
  - 1.1.3.10. Virtual synchronous meetings (group and one on one)
  - 1.1.3.11. Self-assessment
  - 1.1.3.12. Quizzes
  - 1.1.3.13. Certified Impairment Rater examination

#### 1.2. Preparing a Foundation, Introduction to the *AMA Guides*

- 1.2.1. Orientation to Medicolegal Services
  - 1.2.1.1. Arenas
  - 1.2.1.2. Clients

#### 1.2.1.3. Services

- 1.2.1.3.1. Independent medical evaluations
- 1.2.1.3.2. Medical file reviews
- 1.2.1.3.3. Impairment assessment
- 1.2.1.3.4. Consulting
- 1.2.1.3.5. Life care planning
- 1.2.1.3.6. Testimony

#### 1.2.2. AMA *Guides*, Sixth Edition

- 1.2.2.1. Introduction
- 1.2.2.2. Chapter 1. Conceptual Foundations and Philosophy
- 1.2.2.3.

### 1.3. **AMA *Guides*, Practical Aspects**

- 1.3.1. AMA *Guides*, Sixth Edition
  - 1.3.1.1. Chapter 2. Practical Application
  - 1.3.1.2. Chapter 3. Pain
- 1.3.2. Tasks
  - 1.3.2.1. Self-assessment (online)
  - 1.3.2.2. Meeting with Dr. Brigham, individual

### 1.4. **AMA *Guides*, Spine**

- 1.4.1. Chapter 17. Spine

## 2. **AMA *Guides*, Sixth Edition**

### 2.1. **AMA *Guides*, Upper Extremities**

- 2.1.1. Chapter 15. Upper Extremities

### 2.2. **AMA *Guides*, Lower Extremities**

- 2.2.1. Chapter 16. Lower Extremities

### 2.3. **AMA *Guides*, Nervous System**

- 2.3.1. Chapter 13. Central and Peripheral Nervous System (2008)
- 2.3.2. Chapter 13. Central and Peripheral Nervous System (2023)

### 2.4. **AMA *Guides*, Mental and Behavioral Disorders, and other issues**

- 2.4.1. Chapter 14. Mental and Behavioral Disorders

## 3. **Critical Concepts**

### 3.1. **Medicolegal Orientation**

- 3.1.1. Concepts
- 3.1.2. Terminology
- 3.1.3. Ethics
- 3.1.4. Bias

### 3.2. **Building on our Clinical Skills**

- 3.2.1. Biopsychosocial Perspective: Body, Mind, and Spirit
- 3.2.2. Diagnosis and Treatment
- 3.2.3. Appropriateness of Care
- 3.2.4. Work and Health

### 3.3. **Beyond the Physical**

- 3.3.1. Pain and behavioral issues
- 3.3.2. Symptom magnification and malingering
- 3.3.3. Personality disorders and traits
- 3.3.4. Drug dependency and addiction
- 3.3.5. Psychological
- 3.3.6. Psychosocial

### 3.4. **Claims Issues, Often Overlooked**

3.4.1. Pre-existing conditions

3.4.2. Comorbidities

**4. Critical Issues, Part One**

**4.1. Performing a Comprehensive Assessment**

**4.2. Using Science, Evidence-Based Medicine, and Guidelines**

**4.3. Causation Analysis: Best Practices**

**4.4. Apportionment Analysis: Best Practices**

**5. Critical Issues, Part Two**

**5.1. Functional Assessment**

**5.2. Work Ability**

**5.3. Disability Duration**

**5.4. Case Examples**

**6. Musculoskeletal Injury**

**6.1. Spine**

6.1.1. Cervical Disorders

6.1.2. Thoracic Disorders

6.1.3. Lumbar Disorders

**6.2. Upper Extremity**

6.2.1. Shoulder Disorders

6.2.2. Elbow Disorders

6.2.3. Wrist Disorders

6.2.4. Hand Disorders

6.2.5. Peripheral nervous system

6.2.6. Entrapments

**6.3. Lower Extremity**

6.3.1. Hip Disorders

6.3.2. Knee Disorders

**6.3.3. Foot/Ankle Disorders**

**6.4. Neurological**

6.4.1. Nervous System - Central nervous system injury and illness

6.4.2. Nervous System - Spinal cord injuries

**7. Systems and Clients**

**7.1. Workers' Compensation**

**7.2. Personal injury and motor vehicle casualty**

**7.3. Disability: Federal, Short-Term, Long-Term**

**7.4. Medical Malpractice and Other**

**8. Services**

**8.1. Independent medical and impairment assessments**

**8.2. Medical document analysis**

**8.3. Consulting Services: Life Care Planning, Litigation Support**

**8.4. Essentials of Practice Development**

**9. Expert Witness and Next Step**

**9.1. Legal Systems and Needs**

**9.2. Expert Witness Skill Development, 1**

### 9.3. Expert Witness Skill Development, 2

### 9.4. Nest Steps

#### Primary Faculty

Christopher R. Brigham, MD, MMS, FAIME, FACOEM, is Editor of the *AMA Guides Newsletter* and *Casebook* and Senior Contributing Editor for the *AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment*, Sixth Edition. Chris has written nearly 300 peer-reviewed articles, spoken at over 350 events, consulted extensively in the United States and internationally, and is skilled in using web-based technologies, focusing on virtual learning systems. Chris received his Medical Degree from the Washington University School of Medicine – St. Louis, a Master of Medical Science from Rutgers Medical School, and a Certificate in Human Resources Management from the University of Southern Maine. He is Board-Certified in Occupational Medicine (ABPM), a Founding Director of the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners, a Fellow of the American College of Occupational Environmental Medicine, and a Fellow of the International Academy of Independent Medical Evaluators.

#### Fees

The fee for this course is \$300 per month for nine months, i.e., \$2700. Participants must also enroll in the *AMA Guides*, Sixth Edition – Mastery Course, a learning focus for the first two months; however, there are given credit towards the Mastery Course of \$600 (based on the \$300 monthly fee for two months). After three months, the fee for the monthly meetings is \$44 per month, and the CIR Examination is \$495. The projected total is \$4,106; this reflects approximately 138 hours of learning at \$30/hour. This table summarizes the fees:

Component	Months	Total Fee	Hours
Comprehensive Course	9	\$2,700	90
<i>AMA Guides</i> , Mastery	2	\$647 (after \$600 credit)	35
<i>AMA Guides</i> , Monthly	3	0	3
	6	\$264	6
CIR Examination	1	\$495	4
		\$4,106	138

Participants must subscribe to the *AMA Guides* All Access digital resources the American Medical Association offers at \$599 for one year. Required textbooks are approximately \$400. Therefore, the total cost is approximately \$5,105, plus any additional publications or website subscriptions you may want to purchase.

Based on IME Fee Survey, the average income from 3 IMEs (@ \$1,800/evaluation) = \$5,400. Therefore, it is probable that you will have a strong return on your investment. Note: Other expenses will be incurred in developing a new practice, and your fees may vary from the reported average. Your success depends on many factors; therefore, a precise projection is not feasible. However, we want you to succeed and are here to assist.

For more information, visit [www.emedicolegal.com](http://www.emedicolegal.com).

The direct link is [bit.ly/41tL5lv](http://bit.ly/41tL5lv)

