



MOTOR ACCIDENTS
AUTHORITY

Call for Expression of Interest for appointment as a MAS Medical Assessor for the Motor Accidents Authority

About the MAA

The Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) is a statutory corporation that regulates the NSW Motor Accidents Scheme. The MAA leads and supports a Compulsory Third Party Scheme to minimise the impact of motor vehicle accidents on injured persons.

The Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999, which came into force on 5 October 1999, introduced 'The Motor Accidents Assessment Service' (MAAS), a dispute resolution forum independent of insurers and the courts. MAAS was established to resolve medical and claims disputes as they arise throughout the course of a claim. MAAS consists of two separate but complementary dispute resolution services, the Medical Assessment Service (MAS) and the Claims Assessment & Resolution Service (CARS).

The Medical Assessment Service promotes the fair and timely resolution of medical disputes. The policy and operating framework for MAS are set by the Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999 and Guidelines made pursuant to this Act.

Medical Assessors

The MAA appoints medical assessors to assess medical disputes about motor vehicle injuries and ensures that, as far as reasonably practicable, there are medical assessors appointed across a variety of medical specialities and in the regional areas of NSW.

A medical assessor's terms of appointment may be restricted to disputes of a specified kind (Sections 58 and 59 Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999). MAS medical assessors may be asked to assess medical disputes about:

- *Reasonable and Necessary Treatment* - Was/is treatment reasonable and necessary in the circumstances?
- *Related Treatment* - Was/is treatment related to the injury caused by the motor vehicle accident?
- *Stabilisation of Injuries* - Have the claimants injuries stabilised? That is, has the injury been present for a period of time, is it static and unlikely to change with or without further treatment?
- *Permanent Impairment* - Have the claimant's injuries caused a greater than 10 per cent whole person permanent impairment?
- *Impairment to Earning Capacity* - Is the claimant's earning capacity impaired as a result of the injuries sustained in the motor vehicle accident?

Medical assessors may also be invited to sit on medical review panels.



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AUTHORITY

Appointment of Medical Assessors

The MAA currently wishes to appoint medical assessors who specialise in Obstetrics and Gynaecology for the current term ending on 30 June 2010. Accordingly, we welcome enquiries from members of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists who may be interested in submitting an Expression of Interest for appointment as a MAS Medical Assessor.

The MAA appoints medical assessors based on a competitive selection process, the application of merit principles, and MAA needs.

Conditions and Remuneration

A medical assessor must provide a minimum of two appointments per month in which to conduct assessments referred by MAS. However, the MAA makes no guarantee regarding the allocation of work to any medical assessor. The allocation of matters to medical assessors is entirely at the discretion of the MAA and may not necessarily result in regular work or any work.

Medical assessors are also required to undertake the assessment of disputes and issue certificates including reasons, in accordance with the Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999, the Code of Conduct and the Terms of Engagement for Medical Assessors, the MAA Permanent Impairment Guidelines, the American Medical Association Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (4th Edition), the Medical Assessment Guidelines and any instructions that may be issued by MAS during training and from time to time.

Payment is in accordance with the medical assessor fee schedule as in force at the time of the assessment.

The Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the selection criteria. It is important therefore that applicants address **each of the selection criteria** individually in their application.

Selection Criteria for Medical Specialists:

- Qualified medical practitioner registered to practice in NSW and/or other jurisdiction.
- Qualified medical specialist who has practised in the speciality for at least 5 years, and who is a member of the relevant Australian or Australasian medical college or faculty with at least 5 years practical experience.
- Successful completion of (or ability to complete) the approved training course(s) and examination(s) in the MAA Permanent Impairment Guidelines and the AMA



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AUTHORITY**

Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (4th Ed.), in the core module and 1 or more additional modules.

- Superior ability and extensive experience in the fair and impartial assessment and documentation / certification of injuries and permanent impairment, in accordance with authoritative guidelines and ethical practice.
- Participation in continuing professional development relevant to your area of speciality.
- Commitment to and ability to comply with the MAA Medical Assessment Guidelines, Terms of Engagement and Code of Conduct.
- Superior knowledge of current evidence-based medical practice.

Support following appointment

MAS staff provide medical assessors with report writing templates, case studies and electronic newsletters, they conduct regular forums and an annual conference, and they conduct a quality assurance program to enhance currency of knowledge and consistency between assessors. MAS staff also arrange training for medical assessors' support staff.

Following their appointment, new medical assessors will be required to attend compulsory induction training which must be completed before any matters will be allocated to the new assessor. The details of this training will be advised following appointment.

Should you require any further information regarding this position and requirements for lodging an Expression of Interest for appointment as a Medical Assessor, please contact either:

- Isabella Watkins, Principal MAS Standards Officer on 8268 1476 (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday) or by email iwatkins@maa.nsw.gov.au OR
- Jennifer Kirkby, Medical Assessments Manager on 8268 1458 or by email jkirkby@maa.nsw.gov.au

You may also wish to view our website which will provide you with further information regarding the Motor Accidents Authority, the NSW Motor Accidents Scheme, and the Medical Assessment Service.

<http://www.maa.nsw.gov.au/> - proceed to the Dispute Resolution tab

Yours faithfully

Jennifer Kirkby
Medical Assessments Manager
Motor Accidents Assessment Service