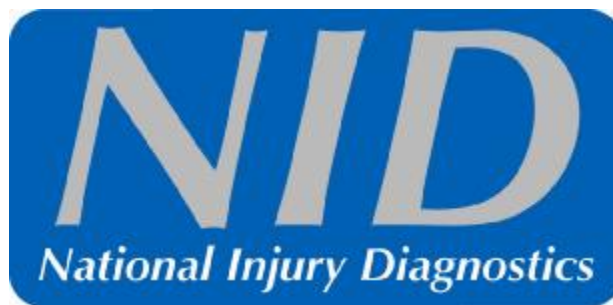


800 Wisconsin Street  
Bldg. D02, Mailbox 65  
Suite 420D  
Eau Claire WI 54703  
Phone: 715-833-8533  
Fax: 715-839-7902  
[info@nationalinjurydiagnostics.com](mailto:info@nationalinjurydiagnostics.com)  
[www.nationalinjurydiagnostics.com](http://www.nationalinjurydiagnostics.com)



*“Optimal Patient Outcomes through Accurate Injury Assessment”*



## Navigating the AMA 6<sup>th</sup> Edition Impairment Guides

We have not talked about the AMA 6<sup>th</sup> Edition yet, because this Edition has become very controversial. Almost since it was released it has been in a cloud of uncertainty. We at NID are waiting around to see where the dust settles.

The problem with this Edition for those of you, who are not familiar with this whole guidelines process, is that there appears to be biases which have resulted in loss of credibility of the AMA Guides assertion that they are independent. The links below will explain it better than we can.

At NID we are staying neutral, as this is not our area. We will have Radiographic Mensuration Reports that are 6<sup>th</sup> Edition Compliant and we are already working on resources, Webinars, vendors with online software to do 6<sup>th</sup> Edition Reports etc., when and if this Guideline becomes broadly utilized.

For those of you who have attended our Live Webinars, this area is covered in the Guidelines section of our Webinars.

For now, as of September 28, 2008, all I am going to say is simply this; the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition is still in full effect and even if the 6<sup>th</sup> comes out and is fully utilized you can still argue that the 5<sup>th</sup> most closely represents your patient. Now I know this may seem a bit advanced, but it is so simply true, and will be covered in our educational Webinars.

I will try to clarify more on this point in the future. I will also clarify more in the future that everyone will have to have some minimal expertise in this area if you are going to treat patients with active acute spinal injuries. That is why we have gone to the Web-Based Training.

Anyway I thought I might give you an idea of why we have held off on education and putting in the 6<sup>th</sup> edition changes into our service. Below are just a couple of links for your interest. In these links you can read about the problems associated with the 6<sup>th</sup> edition from those who are having a serious problem with it. Please let me state again that we are neutral in this issue. Our company will respond to what the environment dictates is needed.

If you run into any 6<sup>th</sup> edition problems, questions, challenges then please remember that we can be a resource for help, just give us a call.

Here is one link that will help to tell the story of the AMA 6<sup>th</sup> Edition right now. When you hit the link below you must scroll down through the blog and the 6<sup>th</sup> edition will come up:

<http://www.nyworkerscompensationalliance.org>