

New QME requirements begin April 1st 2026

New requirements: 16 hours every 24 months

- (1) Minimum of 4 hours of instruction in disability impairment rating
- (2) Minimum of 3 hours of instruction in medical-legal report writing
- (3) Minimum of 2 hours of instruction in anti-bias training
- (4) Minimum of 2 hours in of instruction consisting of a review of workers' compensation case law
- (5) Minimum of 1 hour of instruction in proper application of the medical-legal fee schedule or in QME adherence to regulatory clerical requirements

Back To Chiropractic will offer 16hrs in the above categories (see below). These classes can go toward your Chiropractic license renewal for The Board of Chiropractic Examiners in the state of California.

- (1) 6 hours of instruction in disability impairment rating
- (2) 4 hours of instruction in medical-legal report writing
- (3) 2 hours of instruction in anti-bias training
- (4) 2 hours in of instruction consisting of a review of workers' compensation case law
- (5) 2 hours of instruction in proper application of the medical-legal fee schedule or in QME adherence to regulatory clerical requirements

Details from the DWC

§ 55.1. Reappointment: Continuing Education Programs.

A QME shall complete within the previous 24 months of his, her or their term of appointment 16 hours of continuing education in disability evaluation, or workers' compensation related medical dispute evaluation, or other workers' compensation related topics approved by the Administrative Director, given by a provider accredited by the Administrative Director. This section shall apply to applications for reappointment received on or after April 1, 2026.

(a) There are two types of continuing education programs:

(1) On-site programs, in which the instructor and QME are in the same location. On site programs can also be accomplished electronically where the instructor and the QME are in the same virtual location as long as the virtual location provides a means for the instructor to continuously track who is attending the class virtually to ensure that attendees remain in the virtual location for the entirety of the actual instruction. In order to provide accreditation for virtual in person instruction, the provider and the QME must satisfy all of the requirements for distance learning as contained in subsection (a)(2) of this regulation; and

(2) Distance learning programs.

(A) Providers of distance learning programs shall give either a pre- or post-course self-examination based on the program material. The provider shall grade the QME's test. Credit for the course can be given only for a passing rate of no lower than 70 percent correct responses. The Administrative Director may audit physicians' examinations and scores.

(B) Credit for distance learning courses shall be granted for the actual time spent viewing, listening to or participating in the program and for the reasonable and necessary time to take the examinations for up to eight hours per program. Credit for the same distance learning program may be taken only once.

(C) All distance learning materials shall bear a date of release and shall be updated every three years. The provider shall notify the Administrative Director in writing of the revision.

(b) The 16 hours of continuing education shall be in disability evaluation, workers' compensation related medical dispute evaluation, or other workers' compensation related topics approved by the Administrative Director. The 16 hours of instruction in continuing education shall include,

- (1) A minimum of 4 hours of instruction in disability impairment rating;
- (2) A minimum of 3 hours of instruction in medical-legal report writing;
- (3) A minimum of 2 hour of instruction in anti-bias training which meets the qualifications outlined in Section 11(h);
- (4) A minimum of 2 hours in of instruction consisting of a review of workers' compensation case law;
- (5) A minimum of 1 hour of instruction in proper application of the medical-legal fee schedule or in QME adherence to regulatory clerical requirements;
- (6) The remaining 4 hours may include credit earned as follows:
 - (A) A physician may earn a maximum of 2 hours of credit for having their reports reviewed by an approved educational provider. The review shall consist of actual discussion between the physician and the educational provider involving critical review of a report or reports authored by the physician and submitted to the educational provider for critique involving assessment of the report quality in relation to assessment of factors outlined in Title 8, California Code of Regulations § 10682. The educational provider shall produce a written checklist as part of the report review indicating their assessment of the individual report. The checklist shall include the factors outlined in Title 8, California Code of Regulations § 10682. The educational provider shall give a copy of the completed checklist to the physician along with any certification of completion of the report review.
 - (B) The DWC may provide on its website annually a list of recommended educational topics for QME certification based on review of medical-legal reports in the previous year.
 - (C) Credit may be received for physician time spent in activities enumerated in section (c).

(c) In addition to granting credit for attending a course or program which it gives, the Administrative Director may grant credit for:

- (1) Participating in a panel on the development or review of the QME competency examination. A physician may receive one hour credit for each hour of participation on a panel. The QME shall obtain documentation of participation from the test administrator for submission to the Administrative Director.
- (2) Instructing in a program given for QME credit by a provider accredited by the Administrative Director. The instructor may receive two hours of credit for each hour of instruction in an accredited provider's program or one hour of credit for each hour of participation on a panel. Credit for the same presentation may be taken only once during each calendar year. The QME shall submit documentation of participation from the program provider to the Administrative Director.

(3) Attending a program which is accepted by the QME's licensing board for renewal of his or her professional license, provided the subject matter is directly related to California impairment evaluation or workers' compensation medical dispute evaluation.

To request credit for this type of course, the QME must submit:

(A) proof of attendance;

(B) written material which describes the program content and program faculty; and

(C) documentation that the program is for continuing education credit by the physician's licensing board.

(4) Passing the QME competency examination. A QME may be granted six hours of continuing education credit for passing this examination for the purpose of receiving an initial appointment as a QME.

(5) Participating in a panel created by the DWC Medical Director to review medical-legal reports for quality. A physician may receive one hour credit for each hour of participation on a panel not to exceed 4 hours in a calendar year. The QME shall obtain documentation of participation from the Medical Director or their designee for submission to the Administrative Director.