

**BOOK REVIEW**

**Guides Sixth Impairment Training Workbook/Spine**  
**American Medical Association**

**ISBN 978-1-60359-098-3**

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American Medical Association, *Guides Sixth Impairment Training Workbook/Spine*. Authors, Marjorie Eskay-Auerbach, MD, JD, and James B. Talmage, MD. ISBN 978-1-60359-098-3. BQ66OP203708, Library of Congress book review.

The *Impairment Training Workbook* accompanying the Sixth Edition of the AMA's *Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment* is an excellent addition to the ever-evolving and complex field of impairment and disability. The *Training Workbook* outlines step by step the new methods of determining impairment based upon the Sixth Edition of *The Guides* in relationship to the DRE (diagnosis-based impairment with functional modification).

Questions 1 through 29 are easy to read, clear, and concise. However, there is some confusion beginning with Question 30, page 27. The authors refer to tables and charts that are in the Sixth Edition of the *Guides* but that are not easily referenced within the *Training Workbook*. For a more user-friendly approach, this author recommends the charts or tables referred to within the *Training Workbook* be displayed on the same page for easy reference. By doing so, the user will not need to have a hard copy of the AMA's *Guides* during the learning process.

Furthermore, beginning with the section "Impairment Calculation Methodology" (page 51), *Guides Sixth Impairment Training Workbook/Spine* might be easier to understand if it were accompanied by case examples, similar to the Third Edition *Guides Casebook*.<sup>(1)</sup> In addition to the *Impairment Training Workbook*, I highly recommend the accompanying Third Edition *Casebook Guides*<sup>(1)</sup> to further complement one's knowledge and understanding of the Sixth Edition of the AMA *Guides*<sup>(2)</sup>. My compliments to the authors, Marjorie Eskay-Auerbach, MD, JD, and James Talmage, MD, for assisting in the learning curve of the new *Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, Sixth Edition*. This manual will help busy clinicians master the learning curve and advance our knowledge when calculating the impairment of patients.

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## **REFERENCES**

- 1) *The Guides Casebook*, Third Edition, American Medical Association, 2009.
- 2) *Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment*, Sixth Edition, American Medical Association, 2009.
- 3) *The AMA Guides Newsletter*, “Book Review: The Guides Casebook, Third Edition.” Nov/Dec 2009, David A. Fetter MD.