

IME Review Policy - Board approved 12/14/10

Under RSA 100-A:6, a physician or physicians designated by the Board of Trustees is required to certify, and the Board must find, that a member is mentally or physically incapacitated for the further performance of duty, that the incapacity is likely to be permanent, and that the member should be retired. If the member is applying for accidental disability retirement, the statute imposes the additional requirement that the permanently incapacitating condition be work-related.

At its April 13, 2010 meeting, the Board of Trustees authorized the Executive Director to enter into service agreements with qualified physicians for the purpose of evaluating applications for ordinary and accidental disability retirement.

In procuring the services of physicians to serve as Independent Medical Examiners, the Executive Director shall use the following criteria:

- Whenever possible, the physician shall have an office in New Hampshire;
- A physician engaged to evaluate physical incapacity shall be an Independent Medical Examiner (IME), certified by a recognized medical organization such as the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine or the American Board of IMEs, or shall prove to the satisfaction of the Executive Director that the physician has the experience to evaluate occupational medical claims including issues of causality;
- A physician engaged to evaluate mental incapacity shall be a forensic psychiatrist or provide sufficient evidence of similar expertise.
- Any physician who is, or is in consideration to be selected as, an IME for NHRS shall immediately report any type of disciplinary finding by the NH Board of Medicine or similar governing body in another jurisdiction.

The Executive Director shall require each physician serving as an Independent Medical Examiner for more than one disability application in a year to submit an updated curriculum vitae at the beginning of each biennium, which shall be reviewed by the Board of Trustees at their September meeting.

The Board of Trustees may terminate the services of an Independent Medical Examiner at any time.