

IME Review Policy - Revisions approved at the October 8, 2024, NHRS Board meeting.

I. Purpose and Intent.

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. The purpose of this Policy is to establish the criteria to be followed in selecting and monitoring qualified physicians to serve as Independent Medical Examiners.

II. Policy.

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

1. Location. Whenever possible, the physician shall have an office in New Hampshire.
2. Certification. 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 or designee that the physician has the experience to evaluate occupational medical claims including issues of causality.
3. Psychiatric IMEs. A physician engaged to evaluate mental incapacity shall be a forensic psychiatrist or provide sufficient evidence of similar expertise.

B. Disciplinary Findings. Any physician or service provider who is, or is in consideration to, provide IME services for NHRS shall immediately report any type of disciplinary finding by the NH Board of Medicine or similar governing body in another jurisdiction.

C. Curriculum Vitae. The Executive Director shall require each individually-contracted physician serving as an Independent Medical Examiner for more than one disability application in a year to submit an updated curriculum vitae each biennium, which shall be reviewed by the Board of Trustees at its October meeting.

D. Termination. The Board of Trustees may discontinue the services of an Independent Medical Examiner or service provider at any time.