

WAC 296-23-358 What happens when there is no approved independent medical exam (IME) provider in the specialty needed available in a reasonably convenient location for the worker? When there is no approved examiner in the worker's community or in a reasonably convenient location for the worker, the department or self-insurer may make alternate arrangements for the examination including, but not limited to:

(1) Considering whether a consultation might be a sufficient alternative;

(2) Using telemedicine where appropriate;

(3) Notifying the worker or their representative before scheduling the IME in the nearest location available. In this case:

(a) Travel must not exceed any travel restrictions imposed by the attending provider unless alternative methods of travel will overcome the travel limitations.

(b) The department or self-insured employer will assist the worker with travel accommodations when requested by the worker.

(c) Travel accommodations are paid by the department or self-insured employer as listed in the fee schedule.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 51.04.020, 51.04.030, 51.36.070, 51.32.055, 51.32.110, 51.32.112, 51.32.114, and 51.32.072. WSR 23-16-115, § 296-23-358, filed 8/1/23, effective 9/1/23.]