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## Am I Entitled to More than One Independent Medical Exam if I have Multiple Work Injuries?



Under Georgia's workers' compensation law, your employer gets to direct where you get medical care if your employer provides you with a valid "[posted panel of physicians](#)." Not surprisingly, posted panel doctors sometimes bring a pro-employer bias to their treatment of you. I regularly see – and you have no doubt heard stories about – cases in which a seriously injured man or woman is given a regular duty return to work, only to end up in surgery a few weeks later.

In 1990, the Georgia legislature gave injured workers an important new right, the "[claimant's IME](#)" (independent medical exam). Under this law, an injured worker can request an independent medical examination with a doctor of his choosing, paid for by the employer's insurance company.

When properly used as part of a effective claim strategy, your claimant's IME can be used to:

- refute the unfair and biased claim of industrial clinic doctors
- contest a premature return to work demand by the insurance adjuster
- support a request for a change in authorized treating physician
- support a reasonable settlement demand

However, as important and valuable as your claimant's IME rights may be, this right is not open ended and it can be wasted if not used properly. [More on Am I Entitled to More than One Independent Medical Exam if I have Multiple Work Injuries?](#)