

# Medico-legal creates new opportunities

## Modules offered:

Core (Wed 3 May or Tue 16 May)  
Cardiovascular (Wed 19 Jul)  
Dermatology - Skin & Scarring (Tue 31 Oct)  
Digestive (Tue 19 Sep)  
Ear, Nose & Throat (Tue 26 Sep)  
Endocrinology (Tue 21 Nov)  
Obstetrics and Gynaecology (Tue 8 Aug)  
Haematology (Tue 14 Nov)  
Hand & Upper Extremity (Tue 4 Jul)  
Lower Extremity (Wed 26 Jul)  
Nervous System (Tue 30 May)  
Psychiatry (Wed 14 Jun)  
Respiratory (Tue 15 Aug)  
Spine (Tue 27 Jun)  
Urology (Tue 22 Aug)  
Visual System (Tue 1 Aug)

For more information about impairment assessment training or to book, please visit [www.iatvic.com.au](http://www.iatvic.com.au) or call (03) 9280 8722.

## What is medico-legal training?

Medico-legal training promotes an awareness of the intersection between the medical profession and the law, and provides medical professionals with the qualifications (required by law) to make assessments and claims in a legal capacity.

## What is impairment assessment training (IAT)?

Impairment assessment training is an important aspect of medico-legal training. Successful completion of a course in IAT allows you to assess impairments for TAC, WorkSafe and personal injury claims under the *Wrongs Act 1958*. Practitioners in the state of Victoria must undertake training in order to make these assessments.

Have you considered medico-legal training? Here are some compelling reasons why you should:

- An understanding of the medico-legal process opens up a new dimension to your work. It is intellectually stimulating and offers you a completely different perspective on the practice of medicine.
- Impairment assessments and medico-legal reports require technical, analytical and diagnostic skills. These skills enhance your day-to-day practice.
- Impairment assessors perform a vital social function in assisting providers of social insurance (such as Worksafe and the TAC) to deliver appropriate compensation to those who should be entitled to such compensation.
- There is a perception that impairment assessors will be routinely called to courts or tribunals for cross examination, with resultant disruption of practice. In the Victorian Compensation Jurisdictions the role of the Medical Panel and introduction of alternative dispute resolution process now means assessors rarely, if ever, get called to court.

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Excellent.  
Best session yet.

Nervous System module,  
21 June 2016

impressive and  
comprehensive  
presentation.

Spine module,  
7 June 2016

Excellent  
presentation.

Digestive module,  
12 September 2016

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- Many medical conditions that become the subject of administrative processes or legal disputes are managed within ordinary clinical practice. It is work that you can build into your practice, as one way of diversifying it.
- It is very easy to integrate medico legal assessment work into your current practice. Examiners can start with a very limited quantity of such work and expand this commitment as they see fit.
- Clear records allow doctors to act in their patients' best interests. Training in this area helps you identify what you need to record and how to record it.
- Medico-legal training is fundamental to good risk management. Medical records may be subpoenaed for legal reasons and used in evidence. Doctors need to be rigorous and detailed in their record keeping and cautious about what they write.

Impairment assessment training is an important aspect of medico-legal practice. In Victoria, only accredited practitioners can conduct impairment assessment for TAC, WorkSafe and for the purposes of personal injury claims.

AMA Victoria's courses cover not only the technical elements but the role of the assessor in relation to the patient, the administrative decision-maker and the law. The courses look at best practice in assessment, including:

- communication with patients
- ordering of further tests
- report writing
- close familiarity with the guides and relevant measurements
- tools to use – for example, the calculator on the IAT website.

The course is comprised of a Core module and at least one elective, for example, the Nervous System. The Core module covers the legislative requirements of impairment assessment and electives are chosen on the basis of the practitioner's specialties. There are two streams, for those who have not previously been accredited and those who have.



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