

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES  
WORKERS' COMPENSATION DIVISION  
DISABILITY RATING STANDARDS**

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**436-035-0230 Other Lower Extremity Findings**

(1) Loss of sensation or hypersensitivity in the leg is not considered disabling except for the plantar surface of the foot and toes, including the great toe, where it is rated as follows:

|   |                  |      |
|---|------------------|------|
| <b>(a)</b>                                    | Toe (in any toe) | Foot |
| partial loss of sensation or hypersensitivity | 5%               | 5%   |
| total loss of sensation or hypersensitivity   | 10%              | 10%  |

\* \* \* \*

(2) The following ratings are for length discrepancies of the injured leg. However, loss of length due to flexion/extension deformities is excluded. The rating is the same whether the length change is a result of an injury to the foot or to the upper leg:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Discrepancy in inches</b>                      | <b>Leg</b> |
| 1/4 to 1/2 inch                                   | 5%         |
| More than 1/2 inch up to and including 1 inch     | 10%        |
| More than 1 inch up to and including 1-1/2 inches | 15%        |
| More than 1-1/2 inches                            | 20%        |

(3) Valid instability in the ankle or knee substantiated by clinical findings is valued based on the ligament demonstrating the laxity, as described in the table below. The instability value is given even if the ligament itself has not been injured.

| Ligament             | Mild  |     | Moderate |     | Severe |     |
|----------------------|-------|-----|----------|-----|--------|-----|
|                      | Ankle | Leg | Ankle    | Leg | Ankle  | Leg |
| Collateral (medial)  | 6%    | 10% | 11%      | 15% | 17%    | 20% |
| Collateral (lateral) | 9%    | 10% | 18%      | 15% | 28%    | 20% |
| Anterior cruciate    |       | 5%  |          | 10% |        | 15% |
| Posterior cruciate   |       | 5%  |          | 10% |        | 15% |

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(4) When injury in the ankle or knee/leg results in angulation or malalignment, impairment values are determined under the following:

\* \* \* \*

(c) Tibial shaft fracture resulting in angulation or malalignment (rotational deformity) affects the function of the entire leg and is rated as follows:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Severity           | Leg impairment   |
| Mild: 10°– 14°     | 17%  |
| Moderate: 15°– 19° | 26%  |
| Severe: 20°+       | 26% plus 1% for each additional degree, to 43% maximum |

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(5) The following values are for surgery of the toes, foot, or leg:

(a) In the great toe:

|   | <b>Toe impairment</b> |
|---|-----------------------|
| interphalangeal joint arthroplasty or resection     | 20%                   |
| metatarsophalangeal joint arthroplasty or resection | 30%                   |

(b) In the second through fifth toes:

|  | <b>Toe impairment</b> |
|--|-----------------------|
| distal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty or resection   | 15%                   |
| proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty or resection | 25%                   |
| metatarsophalangeal joint arthroplasty or resection      | 25%                   |

(c) Foot surgery

|                                       | <b>Foot/ankle impairment</b> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Resection of any part of a metatarsal | 10%                          |
| Ankylosed tarsometatarsal joint       | 10%                          |
| Prosthetic ankle replacement          | 25%                          |

(d) Leg surgery

|   | <b>Leg impairment</b> |
|---|-----------------------|
| Less than complete loss of one meniscus (no additional value is allowed for multiple partial resections of a single meniscus) | 5%                    |
| Complete loss of one meniscus   | 10%                   |
| Complete loss of one meniscus with less than complete loss of the other   | 15%                   |
| Complete loss of both menisci   | 25%                   |
| Each 1/4 of patella removed   | 5%                    |
| Prosthetic femoral head replacement   | 15%                   |
| Total or partial prosthetic knee replacement (no additional value is allowed for multiple, partial or total, replacements).   | 20%                   |

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(8) Injuries to unilateral spinal nerve roots with resultant loss of strength in the leg or foot are rated based on the specific nerve root supplying (innervating) the weakened muscle(s), as described in the following table and modified under OAR 436-035-0011(7).

| (a) | <u>Spinal nerve root</u> | <u>Leg impairment</u> |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------------------|
|     | L-2                      | 20%                   |
|     | L-3                      | 20%                   |
|     | L-4                      | 34%                   |
|     | L-5                      | 37%                   |
|     | S-1                      | 20%                   |

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(9) When a spinal nerve root or lumbosacral plexus are not injured, valid loss of strength in the leg or foot is valued as if the peripheral nerve supplying (innervating) the muscle(s) demonstrating the decreased strength was impaired, as described in the following table and as modified under OAR 436-035-0011(7).

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
|   | <b>Foot impairment</b> |
| <b>Common peroneal</b>                    | 39%                    |
| deep (above mid-shin)                     | 28%                    |
| deep (below mid-shin)                     | 6%                     |
| Superficial                               | 11%                    |
| <b>Tibial nerve</b>                       |                        |
| posterior tibial (mid-calf & knee)        | 28%                    |
| below mid-calf                            | 17%                    |
| lateral plantar branch                    | 6%                     |
| medial plantar branch                     | 6%                     |
| <b>Peripheral nerve</b>                   | <b>Leg impairment</b>  |
| Femoral (Below the iliacus nerve)         | 30%                    |
| Nerves to obturator internus & piriformis | 10%                    |
| Nerves to quadratus femoris               | 10%                    |
| muscle/nerve to superior                  |                        |
| gemellus muscle/obturator                 |                        |
| Superior gluteal                          | 20%                    |
| Inferior gluteal                          | 25%                    |
| Sciatic (above hamstring innervation)     | 75%                    |
| Sciatic (hamstring loss only)             | 40%                    |
| Tibial nerve (medial popliteal or         | 35%                    |
| internal popliteal above knee)            |                        |

**Example 1:** A worker suffers a knee injury requiring surgery. Upon recovery, the attending physician reports 4/5 strength of the quadriceps femoris. The quadriceps femoris is innervated by the femoral nerve which has a 30% impairment value. 4/5 strength, under OAR 436-035-0011(7), is 20%. Final impairment is determined by multiplying 30% by 20% for a final value of 6% impairment of the leg.

**Example 2:** A worker suffers a laceration of the deep branch of the common peroneal nerve above mid-shin. Upon recovery, the attending physician reports 3/5 strength of the calf. The deep common peroneal above mid-shin has a 28% impairment value. Under OAR 436-035-0011(7), 3/5 strength is 50%. Impairment is determined by multiplying 28% by 50% for a final value of 14% impairment of the foot.

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