

AMA Criteria for Permanent Impairment Associated with Pulmonary Hypertension

Overview: Pulmonary hypertension can result in impairment which can be quantified based on criteria developed by the AMA.

Parameters:

- (1) signs and symptoms of right heart failure
- (2) pressure measurements by pulmonary artery pressure (PAP) or Doppler echocardiography
- (3) functional class

Symptoms of RH Failure	Pressure Measurements	Functional Class	Impairment of the Whole Person
none	PAP 40 – 50 mm Hg; peak tricuspid velocity 3.0 – 3.5 m/second (by Doppler)	Class 1	0 - 9%
none	PAP 51 – 75 mm Hg	Class 1	10 – 29%
present	PAP > 75 mm Hg	Class 2	30 – 49%
severe	PAP > 75 mm Hg	Class 3 or 4	50 – 100%

References:

Cocchiarella L Andersson GBJ (editors). Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment Fifth Edition. American Medical Association. 2001. (Table 4-6 page 79).