

Rating Impairments Chapters 11, 12 and 13

California Lawyers Association

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AMA Guides Chapter 11

Ear, Nose and Throat

Rating Hearing Impairment

- 1) Physician measures hearing level for each ear separately
- 2) Hearing measured at frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, 3000 hertz using pure tone - unaided
- 2) AMA Guides chose these frequencies where most speech occurs
- 3) Decibel level at each frequency is recorded

Rating Hearing Impairment

- Hertz is a measure of cycles per second
- Measure of pitch
- The higher the hertz the higher the pitch
- Hearing loss occurs at the high frequency first
- Decibels measure the loudness of sound
- Logarithmic scale so an increase of 10 decibels means 10 times as loud

Decibels

Decibels

• Whisper	15
• Lawnmower	90
• Car horn	110
• Jet engine	120
• Gun shot	140

- Lengthy exposure to over 85 decibels and cause hearing loss
- Single exposure to 140 decibels can cause immediate hearing loss

Tinnitus

- Ringing in the ears
- Physician may assign up to 5 hearing impairment add-on for tinnitus in the presence of measureable hearing loss



Calculating Hearing Impairment

- 1) Add up hearing level for each ear separately at 500, 1000, 2000 and 3000 hz. Maximum decibels one level is 100.
- 2) Consult AMA Guides Table 11-2 to determine hearing impairment (better ear at bottom and worse ear on side)
- 3) Up to 5 hearing impairment may be added to measureable hearing loss for tinnitus

Calculating Hearing Impairment

- 4) Consult Table 11-3 to convert hearing impairment to whole person impairment
- 5) Adjust whole person impairment for disability using PDRS

Hearing Loss Impairment

- Hearing loss Impairment is based on formula:

$$\frac{5 \times (\% \text{ hearing better ear}) + (\% \text{ hearing worse ear})}{6}$$

Example total loss of hearing in one ear

Hearing loss 400 db left ear 100 db right ear = ____ HI (Table 11-2 page 250)

Hearing Loss Impairment

- Hearing loss Impairment is based on formula:

$$\frac{5 \times (\% \text{ hearing better ear}) + (\% \text{ hearing worse ear})}{6}$$

Example Total Loss of hearing in one ear

Hearing loss 400 db left ear 100 db right ear = 16.7 HI (Table 11-2 page 248)

16.7 HI = _____ WP impairment (Table 11-3 page 250)

Hearing Loss Impairment

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$$\frac{5 \times (\% \text{ hearing better ear}) + (\% \text{ hearing worse ear})}{6}$$

Example Total Loss of hearing in one ear

Hearing loss 400 db left ear 100 db right ear = 16.7 HI (Table 11-2 page 248)

16.7 HI = 6 WP impairment (Table 11-3 page 250)

Hearing Loss Impairment

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Example Total Loss of hearing in one ear

Hearing loss 400 db left ear 100 db right ear = 16.7 HI (Table 11-2 page 250)

16.7 HI = 6 WP impairment (Table 11-3 page 250)

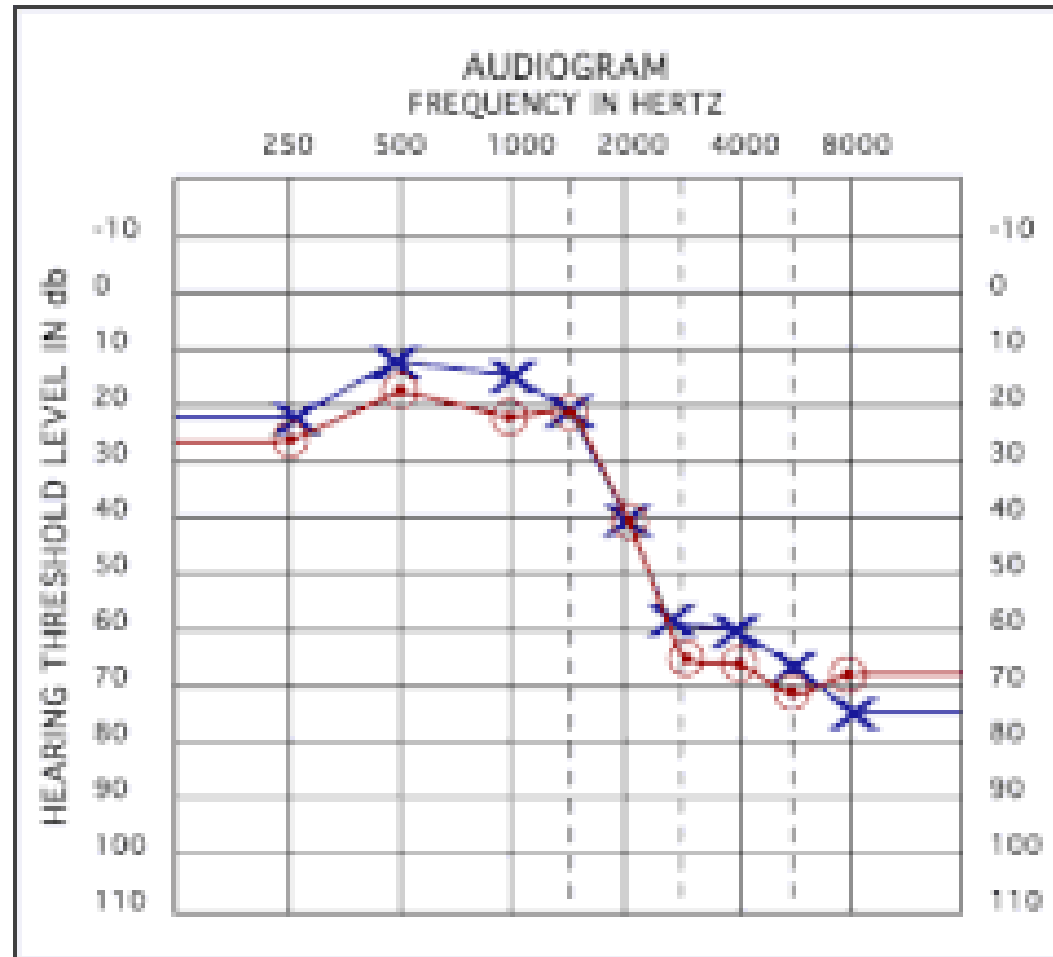
11.01.01.00 – 6 – [1.4]8 – 490I – 12 – 15 Final PD

Hearing Loss Problem

- 55 year old police officer – Occupational Group 490
- High frequency hearing loss
- Tinnitus for which physician assigns 5 HI

Audiogram Results

X = left ear
O = right ear



Rating Hearing loss

	500 hz	1000	2000 hz	300 hz	Total
Left Ear	10	15	40	60	125
Right ear	20	20	40	65	145

Referencing Table 11-2 = _____ HI (Table 11-2 page 248)

Add-on for tinnitus = _____ HI

Total = _____ HI

Rating Hearing loss

	500 hz	1000	2000 hz	300 hz	Total
Left Ear	10	15	40	60	125
Right ear	20	20	40	65	145

Referencing Table 11-2 = 10.6 HI (Table 11-2 page 248)

Add-on for tinnitus = _____ HI

Total = _____ HI

Rating Hearing loss

	500 hz	1000	2000 hz	300 hz	Total
Left Ear	10	15	40	60	125
Right ear	20	20	40	65	145

Referencing Table 11-2 = 10.6 HI (Table 11-2 page 248)

Add-on for tinnitus = 5.0 HI

Total = 15.6 HI

Rating Hearing Loss

- Reference Table 11-3 to convert to WP

15.6 hearing loss = _____ whole person impairment

Rating Hearing Loss

- Reference Table 11-3 to convert to WP

15.6 hearing loss = 5 whole person impairment

Adjust to disability

11.01.01.00 – 5 – [1.4]7 – 490I – 11 – 13 PD

Other Chapter 11 Impairments

Impairment	Table
Vertigo (Inner ear)	Table 11-4
Facial Cosmetic	Table 11-5
Mastication	Table 11-7
Smell/Taste	Page 262 1-5 WP each
Speech (physical)	Table 11-8, 11-9

Facial Cosmetic Impairment

- Table 11-5 (page 256)
- Class 3 (11-15 WP) absence of part such as eye or part of nose
- Example 11-13 Prosthetic eye rates 15 WP
- Enucleation of eye would have both a cosmetic and a visual impairment

Mastication

- Table 11-7 (page 262)
- No rating until diet is limited to semi-soft foods

Speech (Table 11-8 page 265)

Three sections

- 1) Audibility – can you hear me?
- 2) Intelligibility – understand me?
- 3) Function efficiency - pace

- Impairment is based on worse section
- Table 11-9 converts speech impairment to WPI
- Loss of speech = 35 WPI

AMA Guides Chapter 12

Visual System

Visual Impairment

- Visual acuity
- Visual field
- Visual adjustments

Visual Acuity

- Measured using letter chart
- Best correction
- Left eye (OS), right eye (OD), binocular vision (OU)
- If binocular vision not provided use vision of better eye

Visual Acuity

- Visual acuity scores (VAS) are obtained for left eye, right eye and binocular from Table 12-2

Formula for functional acuity score is (Table 12-3 page 284)

Left eye _____ VAS x 1 = _____

Right eye _____ VAS x 1 = _____

Binocular _____ VAS x 3 = _____

Total FAS = _____/5 = _____

Visual Acuity

- Visual Impairment = $100 - \text{FAS}$

Conversion Visual Impairment to Whole person Impairment

If VI 50 or left, WPI = VI

If visual impairment great than 50 (footnote table 12-10 page 298)

$$\text{WPI} = 50 + 0.7 (\text{VSI} - 50)$$

Visual Problem

- Farmworker Group 491 Age 40
- Injured left eye
- Visual acuity left eye 20/200 right eye 20/20
- Visual field reduced is upper temporary quadrant
- Left visual field score 82 right visual field score 100
binocular overlay = 96
- Visual adjustment photophobia 3 VI

Visual Acuity

- Visual acuity scores (VAS) are obtain for left eye, right eye and binocular from Table 12-2 (page 284)

Functional acuity score:

Left eye (20/200) _____ VAS x 1 = _____

Right eye (20/20) _____ VAS x 1 = _____

Binocular (20/20) _____ VAS x 3 = _____

Total FAS = _____/5 = _____

Visual Acuity

- Visual acuity scores (VAS) are obtain for left eye, right eye and binocular from Table 12-2

Functional acuity score:

Left eye (20/200) 50 VAS x 1 = 50

Right eye (20/20) 100 VAS x 1 = 100

Binocular (20/20) 100 VAS x 3 = 300

Total FAS = ____/5 = ____

Visual Acuity

- Visual acuity scores (VAS) are obtain for left eye, right eye and binocular from Table 12-2

Functional acuity score:

Left eye (20/200) 50 VAS x 1 = 50

Right eye (20/20) 100 VAS x 1 = 100

Binocular (20/20) 100 VAS x 3 = 300

Total FAS = $450/5 = 90$

Visual Field

- Visual field plots are completed for left and right eye.
- Score is how many dots out of 100 dots are seen
- Central and upper vision weighted more heavily by dot placement
- Visual plots are intersected and dots not seen by either eye are counted and subtracted from 100 for binocular score

Visual Field

Functional field score:

Left eye 82 VFS x 1 = 82

Right eye 100 VFS x 1 = 100

Binocular 96 VFS x 3 = 288

Total FFS = 470/5 = 94

Combining Visual Acuity and Visual Field Scores

- Functional Visual Score = FAS X FFS/100
- FAS 90 X FFS 94/100 = 85 FVS
- Converting to visual impairment
- 100 – _____ FVS = _____ VI

Combining Visual Acuity and Visual Field Scores

- Functional Visual Score = FAS X FFS/100
- FAS 90 X FFS 94/100 = 85 FVS
- Converting to visual impairment
- 100 – 85 FVS = 15 VI

Visual Acuity and Visual Field

- Duplication between visual acuity and visual field must be considered
- For example a blind eye would not receive additional impairment for visual field loss
- Table 12-9 rule of central scotomata assists with partial duplication

Visual Adjustments

- AMA Guides page 297
- Not captured by either visual acuity or visual field
- Add-on of up to 15 visual impairment allowed
- Visual Adjustments Include
 - Contrast sensitivity
 - Photophobia
 - Glare sensitivity
 - Color blindness
 - Diplopia

Vision Problem

- Visual impairment from acuity/field 15 VI
- Photophobia 3 VI
- Total visual impairment 18 VI

- Conversion to WPI

$$\underline{18} \text{ VI} = \underline{18} \text{ WPI}$$

Adjustment for disability

12.03.00.00 - 18 - [1.4] 25 - 491F - 25 - 25 PD

AMA Guides Chapter 13

Central and Peripheral Nervous System

Major Cerebral Impairments

Consciousness or Awareness

- Consciousness Table 13-2 (page 309)
- Episodic consciousness Table 13-3 (page 312)
- Sleep arousal Table 13-4 (page 317)
- SB863 and sleep arousal

Major Cerebral Impairments

Mental Status/Cognitive

- Table 13-6 (page 320)
- Table 13-5 can be used as a guide to classify impairment by determining clinical dementia rating
- Example: Clinical dementia rating 2.0. What class and range of cognitive impairment? _____

Major Cerebral Impairments

Mental Status/Cognitive

- Table 13-6 (page 320)
- Table 13-5 can be used as a guide to classify impairment by determining clinical dementia rating
- Example: Clinical dementia rating 2.0. What class and range of cognitive impairment? **Class 3 30-49 WP**

Major Cerebral Impairments

Language

- Table 13-7 (page 323)
- Aphasia = inability to communicate
- Different than physical speech impairment covered in Table 11-8
- Dysphasia = inability to understand language

Major Cerebral Impairments

Emotional/Behavioral

- Table 13-8 (page 325)
- From physical brain injury as opposed to stress
- Psychiatric stress is rated using GAF score

Major Cerebral Impairments

- Only the greatest major cerebral impairment is rated to determine the cerebral impairment rating
- May still be combined with PD from cranial nerves station and gait, movement disorder or chronic pain

Cerebral Impairment Problem

- 45 year old attorney Occupational Group 110
- Automobile accident with major head trauma
- Episodic consciousness class 2: 20 WP
- Cognitive class 3: 49 WP
- Emotional/behavior class 2: 25 WP
- Aphasia class 1: 9 WP
- Station and gait class 4: 40 WP

What ratings will be used?

Cerebral Impairment Problem

- Only the greatest of the four cerebral impairments can be rated

Cognitive class 3: 49 WP

13.04.00.00 – 49 – [1.4]69 – 110I – 76 – 78 PD

- May still be combined with station and gait

13.08.00.00 – 40 – [1.4]56 – 110D – 50 – 52 PD

78 C 52 = 89 Final PD

Cranial Nerves

Cranial Nerve	Name	Comment
I	Olfactory	Smell
II	Optic	Use Chapter 12
III,IV,VI	Oculomotor, Trochlear and Abducens	Move eyeballs, Use chapter 12
V	Trigeminal	Facial Pain
VII	Facial	Facial Muscles
VIII	Vestibulocochlear	Balance
IX,X,XII	Glossopharyngeal, Vagus, Hypoglossal	Tongue and throat

Complex Regional Pain Syndrome

Lower Extremity

- Per AMA Guides page 553 rated per Chapter 13
- CRPS diagnosis
- Rate per Table 13-15 Station and Gait page 336

Complex Regional Pain Syndrome

Upper Extremity

- Can be rated per Section 13.8
- CRPS diagnosis
- Use Table 13-22
- There is also a method in chapter 16 to rate CRPS

Spinal Cord Impairments

Table 15-6 Category	Impairment	Chapter 13 Table
a	One upper extremity	Table 13-16
b	Two upper extremities	Table 13-17
c	Station and gait	Table 13-15
d	Bladder	Table 13-19
e	Anorectal	Table 13-20
f	Sexual	Table 13-21
g	Respiration	Table 13-18