

Optimize Your Claim with Experienced MD Review

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August 2025

Special Newsletter for

Personal Injury

Attorneys

This Month's Question:

Can a Medical/Legal Consultant Help in Answering Specific Medical Questions Related to **Depression** in Trauma Cases?

GO MD Review Answer:

We recently had a case of a 52-year-old woman whose vehicle was broadsided in an auto crash. The client had multiple injuries, including ruptured discs at C4-5 and L5-S1. The client continues to experience severe neck and back pain, which limits her functioning in the activities of daily living and her ability to work. The client's husband

was in the front passenger seat and was injured as well. The injuries sustained by the husband exacerbated a pre-existing cancer diagnosis, and the client's husband died approximately two months after the accident. It is documented in the medical records that the husband's treating doctors felt the auto crash injuries more likely than not contributed to the progression of his cancer and his demise.

Approximately eight months after the auto crash, the client complained of several symptoms of depression, which were also limiting her ability to function. The attorney asked us to write a report giving our medical opinion regarding whether the depression was accident-related. The question arises whether the client's depression was due to grief after the death of her husband, or related to the traumatic injuries she sustained, or both. The question was complicated by the nature of the client and her husband's relationship and events before his death.

Ultimately, it was our opinion that in this specific case, the client carried a diagnosis of Depression related to a Medical Condition, specifically her injuries sustained in the auto crash, and we spelled out our reasoning.

The settlement included the depression as a medical damage in the case, supported by our report.

ALLOW ME TO ANALYZE YOUR CLAIM & OPTIMIZE ITS VALUE

- * Assessment of Case Validity and Value**
- * Determination of Future Medical Care**
- * Assistance with Strategies to Promote Medical Theories & Causation**
- * Medical Summary Reports for Settlement Letters**
- * Medical Research and Delivery of Medical Journal Articles**
- * Answering Specific Medical Questions**

- * Interpretation of Meaning, or lack thereof, of Medical Reports & Records**
- * Standard of Care Reviews**
- * Deposition & Trial Question Preparation**
- * Facilitation of Communication with Clients, Families & Professionals**
- * IME Observation & IME Rebuttal Reports**

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Best regards,

Joe Schifilliti MD, MJ

P.S.---Please reply if you have a case to discuss!

P.P.S. ---If you found this newsletter helpful, please reply with: Yes

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