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IME AND MEDICAL EXAMINATION COORDINATION

Defense Base Act IME and Deposition Coordination — Tokyo, Japan

Jurisdiction: Tokyo, Japan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AIQ's claims team is defending a Defense Base Act (DBA) claim before a US Department of Labor administrative law judge. The claimant, a Japanese national, alleges a shoulder injury sustained while employed by a base support contractor in Okinawa.

TARGET LOCATION	CLIENT TYPE	URGENCY
Tokyo, Japan	insurance company	routine, days to weeks
BUDGET	REFERENCE	ENRICHMENT
€5,000–€25,000	OPS-3GQPNB	Not enabled

JURISDICTION ASSESSMENT		
COMPLEXITY	SERVICES	THREAT LEVEL
MEDIUM	EXCELLENT	LOW

SOURCES QUERIED





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Defense Base Act IME and Deposition Coordination — Tokyo, Japan

COMPLEXITY RATING

MEDIUM

SERVICES AVAILABILITY

EXCELLENT

THREAT LEVEL

LOW

KEY FINDINGS & NEXT STEPS

KEY FINDINGS

- The court reporter must be a US-qualified stenographer or certified scopist capable of producing a transcript admissible in DOL proceedings.
- Japan has no single national legal interpreter certification analogous to the US federal court interpreter credential, but the interpreter should have demonstrable experience in medical-legal or workers' compensation depositions.
- The principal compliance risk in this engagement is the evidentiary integrity of the IME.
- AIG's privacy counsel should confirm the appropriate transfer mechanism — likely a contractual framework or consent from the claimant — before the examination.

NEXT STEPS

- Contact claimant's counsel immediately to establish scheduling availability and confirm the required eight-week window for both appointments.
- Engage a US-based international IME management company with confirmed Japan/Asia-Pacific capability, briefing them on the remote US surgeon model and in-room examiner requirements.
- Source a US-credentialed court reporter with Tokyo deployment experience through the NCRA directory or an international deposition services agency.

MATTER SUMMARY

AIG's claims team is defending a Defense Base Act (DBA) claim before a US Department of Labor administrative law judge. The claimant, a Japanese national, alleges a shoulder injury sustained while employed by a base support contractor in Okinawa. The operative challenge is that the claimant is presently resident in Tokyo for a fixed six-month period, creating a defined window within which both an independent medical examination and a deposition must be completed before the scheduled hearing. The DBA is a US federal workers' compensation statute, and all evidentiary standards are governed by US law and DOL procedure — the forum is entirely American even though the logistics are Japanese.

The practical complexity is not legal but operational. The examining orthopaedic surgeon will attend by video from the US, requiring a competent in-room examiner in Tokyo to perform physical tests under remote direction. The deposition requires a qualified court reporter and a certified Japanese-English interpreter. Both appointments require coordination with opposing counsel, as the claimant is represented. Neither appointment is adversarial in the conventional sense, but both carry evidentiary weight that will be scrutinised at hearing. Errors in logistics — unqualified in-room assistants, uncertified interpreters, chain-of-custody gaps in transcripts — could compromise the value of the IME or the deposition entirely.

JURISDICTION PROFILE

Country: Japan

City: Tokyo

Complexity Rating: MEDIUM

Professional Services Availability: EXCELLENT





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Threat Level: LOW

THRESHOLD ASSESSMENT

WHAT MUST HAPPEN IN THE TARGET JURISDICTION:

The claimant is in Tokyo. He is not required by any existing order to submit to examination, and under DBA procedure he may be directed to attend an IME as a condition of continued benefit — but the examination itself must occur at a location reasonably accessible to him. Travel to the US is not a reasonable demand on a claimant resident in Japan. Both appointments therefore require a physical Tokyo venue.

The IME requires a physical room in Tokyo where the claimant can be examined. The examining US surgeon attends remotely, but the physical tests — range of motion, impingement signs, strength testing — require hands-on application by a qualified in-room professional acting under the remote surgeon's direction. This is not a records review; it is a physical examination. Local physical presence of a qualified examiner is genuinely required.

The deposition requires a physical venue in Tokyo, a credentialed US-format court reporter, and a certified interpreter. While depositions can in principle be taken entirely by video under FRCP 30(b)(4) or DOL equivalent, a court reporter must still be present or formally appointed, and the interpreter must be physically present with the witness for reliability and examination integrity. Local presence is required for these roles.

WHAT CAN BE DONE REMOTELY OR FROM THE CLIENT'S OWN JURISDICTION:

The examining orthopaedic surgeon remains entirely in the US. His examination is conducted by video, directing the in-room examiner. His report is produced in the US, in English, under his US board certification. This is the correct and stronger evidential route — a US board-certified surgeon's report carries direct weight before the DOL ALJ without translation, authentication, or credential-equivalency argument. A Japanese orthopaedist's report would require translation, credential mapping, and likely a US medical expert to interpret it regardless. The remote US surgeon model is unambiguously superior for this forum.

Review of existing medical records, imaging reports, and prior treatment history can be handled entirely from the US before either appointment. The examining surgeon should receive all available records in advance.

Scheduling, logistics coordination, venue sourcing, and interpreter and court reporter engagement can all be coordinated from the US by a single experienced IME or legal support vendor with a Japan network, avoiding the need for a full local law firm engagement.

WHAT THE CLIENT CAN DO THEMSELVES, TODAY, AT NO COST:

Confirm the claimant's Tokyo address and availability through opposing counsel, and establish a scheduling window for both appointments within the eight-week deadline. Identify all existing medical records and imaging held by AIG and transmit them to the examining surgeon immediately. Confirm with DOL whether any specific procedural order governs the IME format or location in this matter. Review the existing DBA claim file for any prior IME protocols or stipulations that bind the parties.

PROPORTIONALITY:

DBA claims are unlimited in duration and can involve substantial long-term benefit exposure. A shoulder injury with potential permanent impairment can represent six-figure to seven-figure present-value liability for a US government contractor insurer. The budget of €5,000–€25,000 for logistics, vendor coordination, and in-room medical assistance is proportionate and appropriate. This is not an over-engineered response.

THRESHOLD CONCLUSION:

This matter genuinely requires physical coordination in Tokyo for both the IME and the deposition. However, the core professional outputs — the surgeon's examination report and the deposition transcript — are generated by US professionals under US standards. The Tokyo footprint is a logistics and facilitation function, not a substantive local legal engagement. A specialist IME coordination vendor with Japan capability, a court reporter agency with international reach, and a certified interpreter are the three pillars required. No Tokyo law firm is required unless a dispute arises over the claimant's compliance with the IME directive.





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KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. The in-room examiner at the IME is not the examining physician. Their role is to apply physical tests under the remote surgeon's real-time direction — range-of-motion goniometry, impingement testing, Hawkins, Neer, empty can, strength grading. A licensed physical therapist or orthopaedic nurse with musculoskeletal experience is appropriate and may be preferable to a Japanese orthopaedist, who might assert clinical independence rather than act as a directed technician.
2. The court reporter must be a US-qualified stenographer or certified scopist capable of producing a transcript admissible in DOL proceedings. Internationally operating court reporter agencies routinely deploy to Tokyo or coordinate with local English-language certified reporters. The transcript is the deliverable — confirm the agency's DOL and federal court experience before engagement.
3. The interpreter must be certified for legal proceedings. Japan has no single national legal interpreter certification analogous to the US federal court interpreter credential, but the interpreter should have demonstrable experience in medical-legal or workers' compensation depositions. The deposition interpreter and any IME interpreter should ideally be different individuals to avoid fatigue and conflict.
4. All contact with the claimant must go through his Japanese attorney or US counsel of record. Do not contact the claimant directly. Scheduling communications, venue confirmations, and any written directions to the claimant regarding IME attendance must be routed through counsel. Confirm early whether opposing counsel requires a protective order or advance agreement on IME protocol.
5. Video technology for the remote IME must be tested in advance. The US surgeon should have a stable, high-resolution feed capable of clearly observing the claimant's shoulder movement, posture, and pain responses. A platform with recording capability should be agreed or declined in advance in consultation with both counsel, given the evidentiary implications of a recorded examination.

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STRATEGIC APPROACHES

APPROACH 1 — STANDARD

Method: AIG's in-house claims team self-coordinates both appointments using a US-based international IME coordination vendor and a court reporter agency with Tokyo capability. The vendor sources the in-room examiner and venue. The court reporter agency supplies the reporter and certified interpreter. All communication with opposing counsel is handled directly by the claims team.

Timeline: Four to six weeks.

Estimated Cost: €6,000–€10,000 total, covering IME coordination vendor fee, in-room examiner fee, court reporter and transcript, interpreter for deposition, and venue hire.

Recommended for: Claims teams with prior DBA IME experience who are comfortable directing vendor engagement without a supervising local law firm.

APPROACH 2 — ACCELERATED (RECOMMENDED)

Method: Engage a specialist US-based international IME management company with confirmed Japan operations to serve as single point of coordination for both appointments. The vendor handles venue sourcing, in-room examiner recruitment, interpreter sourcing and vetting, video platform setup, and scheduling with opposing counsel. A separate internationally-operating court reporter agency is engaged for the deposition, with a certified interpreter provided or independently sourced. The examining surgeon is briefed in advance with full medical records and a Japan-specific protocol note.





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Timeline: Two to four weeks to schedule; both appointments completable within the eight-week window.

Estimated Cost: €10,000–€18,000 total, covering IME management fee, in-room examiner, venue, court reporter, deposition interpreter, video technology, and transcript production.

Recommended for: Insurers seeking a single accountable vendor, faster scheduling, and reduced coordination risk in an unfamiliar jurisdiction.

APPROACH 3 — EXPEDITED

Method: Engage a Tokyo-based international legal services firm or global litigation support company to manage the entire in-country operation, including venue, examiner, interpreters, court reporter coordination, and scheduling negotiations with opposing counsel's Japanese attorney. Adds a local legal contact who can address any last-minute compliance or access issues on the ground.

Timeline: One to three weeks to schedule; both appointments within six weeks.

Estimated Cost: €18,000–€24,000 total, reflecting premium vendor fees, local legal advisory retainer, expedited examiner sourcing, and full-service coordination.

Recommended for: Matters where speed is paramount, where opposing counsel is uncooperative, or where the claimant's cooperation is uncertain and a local legal presence may assist.

LEGAL & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Defense Base Act extends the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act to civilian employees working on US military bases overseas. Jurisdiction and procedure lie entirely with the US Department of Labor, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, and appeals proceed before DOL administrative law judges. Japan has no domestic role in adjudicating the underlying claim, and Japanese workers' compensation law is irrelevant to the DBA forum. The IME and deposition are procedural steps in a US federal administrative proceeding, governed by the DBA, the LHWCA, and DOL regulations at 20 CFR Part 702.

Japan's Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with the United States governs access to and activity on US military installations in Japan, including Okinawa. The IME and deposition are being conducted in Tokyo, not on-base, so SOFA restrictions on civilian access do not directly apply. However, if any records or witnesses are located on US military installations, access may require coordination with base command and JAG offices. This is unlikely to arise in the present logistics context but should be noted for completeness.

The in-room Tokyo examiner is a facilitating professional, not an independent medical examiner for Japan. Provided they act under the direction of the US surgeon and do not independently diagnose or treat the patient, no Practitioners Act licensing conflict arises. A licensed physical therapist (理学療法士, rikajouhousei) operating under clinical direction falls within their registered scope. AIG's US counsel should confirm this framing in the IME protocol letter sent to opposing counsel in advance of the examination.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROVIDERS REQUIRED

TYPE: International IME Management Company

ROLE: Single-point coordinator for the remote orthopaedic IME — sources Tokyo venue, recruits in-room examiner (licensed PT or orthopaedic nurse), arranges video platform, manages scheduling with opposing counsel, provides pre-examination protocol support to the US surgeon.

QUALIFICATIONS TO LOOK FOR: Demonstrated Japan IME experience, DBA or federal workers' compensation case history, ability to source in-room examiners who are English-communicative and understand a remote-directed examination protocol.

TYPICAL COST RANGE: €3,000–€7,000 for full coordination including venue and examiner.





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HOW TO VERIFY CREDENTIALS: Request client reference list for Japan and Asia-Pacific engagements, confirm DBA case experience with claims team contacts, verify vendor registration and insurance.

CONFIDENCE LEVEL: HIGH

TYPE: Licensed Physical Therapist or Orthopaedic Clinical Nurse (In-Room Examiner)

ROLE: Attends the Tokyo examination venue in person. Performs physical tests — range of motion, strength, impingement provocation — under real-time remote direction of the US surgeon. Documents findings as directed. Does not produce an independent report.

QUALIFICATIONS TO LOOK FOR: Japanese 理学療法士 (Licensed Physical Therapist) registration or equivalent orthopaedic nursing credential. English communication ability sufficient to relay surgeon instructions and claimant responses. Prior experience with medicolegal or insurance examinations preferred.

TYPICAL COST RANGE: €400–€900 for a half-day examination engagement, including preparation and documentation.

HOW TO VERIFY CREDENTIALS: Confirm registration with Japan Physical Therapy Association (日本理学療法士協会) or relevant nursing board. Request CV and prior medicolegal examination experience.

CONFIDENCE LEVEL: HIGH

TYPE: Court Reporter (US-Qualified)

ROLE: Produces a verbatim stenographic or digital transcript of the claimant's deposition, suitable for use in DOL proceedings. Must be capable of certifying the transcript under US federal or applicable state rules.

QUALIFICATIONS TO LOOK FOR: US Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) or Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR) credential. International deployment experience. Familiarity with DOL or LHWCA proceedings advantageous.

TYPICAL COST RANGE: €1,200–€2,500 for a full-day deposition including transcript production and certification.

HOW TO VERIFY CREDENTIALS: Verify RPR or CRR via the National Court Reporters Association (ncra.org) member directory.

CONFIDENCE LEVEL: HIGH

TYPE: Japanese-English Legal Interpreter (Deposition)

ROLE: Provides consecutive interpretation between the deposing US attorney and the Japanese-speaking claimant. Must interpret accurately and neutrally, follow deposition interpretation protocols, and take interpreter's oath.

QUALIFICATIONS TO LOOK FOR: Membership in or certification from a recognised legal or conference interpreting body (AIIC, Japan Association of Translators, or equivalent). Demonstrable medical-legal or workers' compensation deposition experience. Must not have a prior relationship with either party.

TYPICAL COST RANGE: €600–€1,400 for a full-day deposition engagement.

HOW TO VERIFY CREDENTIALS: Request prior deposition references; confirm any AIIC or professional association membership via public directory.

CONFIDENCE LEVEL: HIGH

TYPE: Japanese-English Medical Interpreter (IME, if required)

ROLE: Facilitates communication between the US surgeon (via video), the in-room examiner, and the claimant during the physical examination. Distinct from the deposition interpreter.

QUALIFICATIONS TO LOOK FOR: Medical interpreting background; familiarity with orthopaedic and musculoskeletal terminology in





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both languages.

TYPICAL COST RANGE: €300–€700 for a half-day IME engagement.

HOW TO VERIFY CREDENTIALS: Request CV and prior medical interpreting references; confirm no prior relationship with claimant.

CONFIDENCE LEVEL: HIGH

RECOMMENDED LOCAL FIRMS & CONTACTS

SERVICE TYPE: International IME Coordination — Asia-Pacific

FIRM NAME: Confirm via the directory of the Alliance of Independent Medical Evaluators (AIME) or equivalent US IME industry body for vendors with Japan/Asia-Pacific capability.

WEBSITE: aime.net (for US IME industry directory)

WHY SUITABLE: AIME and equivalent US IME professional bodies maintain vendor directories with international deployment history. Querying for Japan or Asia-Pacific experience will surface active vendors.

HOW TO MAKE CONTACT: Search the AIME member directory and filter for international or Asia-Pacific capability; submit an enquiry via the vendor's website contact form.

CONFIDENCE LEVEL: HIGH

SERVICE TYPE: International Court Reporter Deployment

FIRM NAME: National Court Reporters Association — Deposition Finder

WEBSITE: ncra.org

WHY SUITABLE: NCRA maintains a public directory of credentialed court reporters including those with international deployment experience. Multiple agencies sourced through this directory have Tokyo capability.

HOW TO MAKE CONTACT: Use the NCRA member search tool at ncra.org to identify reporters or agencies with Asia-Pacific experience; contact via agency website enquiry form.

CONFIDENCE LEVEL: HIGH

SERVICE TYPE: Legal Interpreting — Japanese-English

FIRM NAME: Japan Association of Translators or AIIC Japan Centre

WEBSITE: jat.org / aiic.net

WHY SUITABLE: JAT and AIIC are the two principal professional bodies for qualified Japanese-English translators and interpreters. AIIC members in particular hold conference and legal interpreting credentials and are publicly searchable.

HOW TO MAKE CONTACT: Use the AIIC directory search at aiic.net to identify Tokyo-based Japanese-English interpreters; filter by legal or medical specialisation where the directory allows.

CONFIDENCE LEVEL: HIGH

SERVICE TYPE: In-Country Legal Advisory (Contingency)

FIRM NAME: Anderson Mori & Tomotsune

WEBSITE: amt-law.com

WHY SUITABLE: One of Japan's leading international law firms with deep experience in cross-border litigation support and





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US-connected matters. Suitable if opposing counsel is uncooperative, a claimant compliance issue arises, or a local legal opinion on the IME protocol is required.

HOW TO MAKE CONTACT: Enquiry form on the firm's website.

CONFIDENCE LEVEL: HIGH

RISK & COMPLIANCE CONSIDERATIONS

The principal compliance risk in this engagement is the evidentiary integrity of the IME. The in-room examiner must be clearly framed in the protocol documentation as a directed technician, not an independent examiner, to avoid any argument by claimant's counsel that a Japanese medical opinion has been generated without disclosure. The pre-examination protocol letter — agreed between US counsel on both sides — should explicitly state the examining surgeon's name, credentials, and remote attendance format; the in-room examiner's name, Japanese registration, and facilitative role; and the video platform to be used. Any ambiguity in this framing is a claimant-side challenge waiting to happen.

Japan's Act on the Protection of Personal Information (APPI) applies to the collection and handling of personal and medical data about an individual in Japan. AIG's transmission of medical records to the US surgeon, and the eventual transmission of the examination report and deposition transcript back to the US, involves cross-border personal data transfer. Under APPI revisions effective 2022, cross-border data transfers require either the recipient country to have equivalent data protection standards or the data subject's informed consent. The US does not have a general adequacy determination under APPI. AIG's privacy counsel should confirm the appropriate transfer mechanism — likely a contractual framework or consent from the claimant — before the examination.

Opposing counsel's cooperation is essential. In Japan, legal professionals operate within a system (弁護士, bengoshi) that is formal and process-oriented. If the claimant's Japanese attorney is involved, communications will be formal and likely slower than US litigation pace. All scheduling demands should be framed as professional courtesy requests with clear deadlines, not as unilateral directives. If the claimant is represented by a US attorney only, those norms revert to standard DBA practice. Confirm the structure of claimant's legal representation early to calibrate the scheduling approach accordingly.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Tokyo is a highly developed, professionally sophisticated city with excellent availability of international-standard medical, legal, and interpreting professionals. English proficiency among professional-class practitioners is reasonable but should not be assumed — confirm English capability explicitly when sourcing any in-room examiner or interpreter. International law firms, litigation support companies, and interpreter agencies operating in Tokyo routinely handle US and UK-connected legal proceedings and are familiar with deposition protocols, oath administration, and transcript formats. Venue options for a deposition or IME range from serviced conference rooms at international hotels to law firm office space, all readily bookable and well-equipped for video conferencing.

Okinawa is culturally and administratively distinct from Tokyo, and the claimant's injury arose there in a US military base context. However, the Tokyo appointments do not require any Okinawa-specific operational knowledge. The only practical local nuance is that the claimant may have retained a Japanese attorney based in Okinawa rather than Tokyo, which could affect scheduling availability. Confirm the location and availability of claimant's counsel early in the coordination process.

SECURE WORKING PRACTICES

All communications between AIG's claims team, the examining surgeon, the IME coordination vendor, and opposing counsel should be conducted via encrypted email or a secure client portal. Medical records transmitted to the US surgeon or stored by any Tokyo vendor must be handled under a signed data processing agreement consistent with both APPI and applicable US privacy standards. The video





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examination platform should be a HIPAA-compatible and encrypted service. Do not use consumer video conferencing tools – confirm the platform selection with US counsel in advance. The deposition transcript and examination report should be transmitted directly to counsel via secure file transfer, not via standard email attachments.

RECOMMENDED APPROACH

The recommended approach is Approach 2. Engage a US-based international IME management company with confirmed Japan capability as the single coordination point for the entire in-country operation. This vendor will source the Tokyo venue, recruit the in-room licensed physical therapist, arrange the video platform, and manage scheduling communications with opposing counsel — reducing the coordination burden on AIG's claims team while maintaining a single accountable party for logistics. The court reporter should be engaged separately through the NCRA directory or a dedicated international deposition services agency, to ensure the transcript meets DOL evidentiary standards and is certified by a US-credentialed reporter.

The sequencing should be:

1. Notify opposing counsel of AIG's intent to schedule both appointments and request available dates within the eight-week window.
2. Engage the IME coordination vendor and confirm examiner availability and venue options.
3. Engage the court reporter agency and confirm Tokyo deployment availability.
4. Source and confirm deposition interpreter through JAT or AIIC directory, securing a separate medical interpreter for the IME if the coordination vendor does not supply one.
5. Circulate a draft IME protocol letter to both counsel for agreement before the examination date.

Ensure the examining surgeon has received and reviewed all available medical records, imaging, and prior treatment documentation at least one week before the IME date. The surgeon should conduct a brief pre-examination call with the in-room examiner to align on protocol, terminology, and the sequence of physical tests. This single preparatory step significantly reduces the risk of examination gaps that claimant's counsel could exploit.

TIMELINE & MILESTONES

- (1) Days 1–5: Notify claimant's counsel of intent to schedule IME and deposition; request available dates. Engage IME coordination vendor and confirm Japan capability. Begin NCRA directory search for court reporter.
- (2) Days 6–12: Confirm IME coordination vendor engagement. Confirm court reporter. Source deposition interpreter via AIIC or JAT directory. Circulate draft IME protocol letter to both counsel.
- (3) Days 13–21: Secure agreed dates for both appointments from opposing counsel. Book Tokyo venue. Confirm in-room examiner identity and credentials. Obtain signed interpreter and court reporter confirmations.
- (4) Days 22–35: Transmit full medical record package to examining US surgeon. Conduct surgeon-to-in-room-examiner pre-examination briefing call. Test video platform with all parties.
- (5) Days 36–45: Conduct IME at Tokyo venue. US surgeon attends via video; in-room examiner performs directed physical tests; medical interpreter facilitates if required.
- (6) Days 46–56: Conduct deposition at Tokyo venue with court reporter and certified interpreter. Claimant's and AIG's counsel attend by video or in person per agreement.
- (7) Days 57–60: Receive and review examination report from US surgeon. Receive certified deposition transcript from court reporter. Both delivered to DOL file in advance of hearing.

Confidence rating: HIGH, provided claimant's counsel cooperates with scheduling in good faith. The principal scheduling risk is delay





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from opposing counsel; build in a buffer request of at least two weeks' notice for both appointments when making the initial contact.

CONTINGENCY CONSIDERATIONS

If the claimant or his counsel declines to cooperate with IME scheduling, AIG's US counsel should seek a formal order from the DOL ALJ directing examination attendance as a condition of continued benefit. This is a standard DBA procedural step and does not require local Japanese court involvement. If the claimant departs Japan before both appointments are completed, US counsel should seek an expedited hearing date or request that the ALJ draw an adverse inference from non-cooperation. The six-month Tokyo residency window is the operational constraint — if scheduling slips past week six, both appointments should be booked simultaneously rather than sequentially to protect the timeline.

If the in-room examiner sourced by the coordination vendor proves to have insufficient English or insufficient orthopaedic manual testing capability after the pre-examination briefing call, replace them before the appointment rather than proceeding with a substandard examination. A failed or incomplete IME is worse than a rescheduled one. Maintain a reserve list of two additional qualified in-room examiners identified during the sourcing phase. Similarly, if the deposition interpreter is challenged by claimant's counsel as unqualified, be prepared to produce the interpreter's credentials and professional references immediately — have these on file before the deposition date.

PROFESSIONAL FEES ESTIMATE

The total realistic cost for Approach 2 is €10,000–€18,000. This breaks down approximately as follows: IME coordination vendor fee including venue and in-room examiner sourcing — €3,000–€7,000; in-room licensed physical therapist for a half-day examination — €400–€900; video platform and technology — €200–€500; court reporter Tokyo deployment and transcript production — €1,200–€2,500; deposition interpreter full day — €600–€1,400; medical interpreter for IME half day — €300–€700; venue hire for deposition if not included in vendor fee — €300–€800; incidentals including pre-examination surgeon briefing support — €200–€400.

All figures are expressed at the Japan cost multiplier of 1.0x given Tokyo's equivalence to Western professional services markets for international-standard legal and medical support. The total sits well within the client's stated budget ceiling of €25,000. Approach 1 self-coordination can reduce total cost to €6,000–€10,000 if AIG's claims team is willing to manage vendor sourcing directly, accepting a higher internal time cost in exchange. Approach 3 with a local legal advisory retainer adds €3,000–€6,000 and is not recommended unless claimant cooperation problems materialise.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

Tokyo presents low operational risk and excellent professional services availability for this engagement. The jurisdiction complexity is medium only in the sense that coordination across US and Japanese professional systems requires careful vendor selection — the underlying environment is stable, cooperative, and well-resourced. The primary operational challenge is timeline compression: eight weeks is workable but tight, and opposing counsel's scheduling response will determine whether both appointments can be completed in sequence or must be run in parallel. Approach 2 — a specialist US-based international IME management company as single coordinator, combined with a separately engaged US-credentialed court reporter and AIIC-sourced interpreter — is recommended because it places accountability with a single experienced vendor, reduces AIG's internal coordination burden, and maximises the probability that both deliverables are evidentially sound and produced within the deadline. Sanctions screening has not been performed and is not within the scope of this briefing; AIG's compliance team should apply their standard screening protocols to all vendors engaged.

1. Contact claimant's counsel immediately to establish scheduling availability and confirm the required eight-week window for both appointments.
2. Engage a US-based international IME management company with confirmed Japan/Asia-Pacific capability, briefing them on the remote US surgeon model and in-room examiner requirements.





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3. Source a US-credentialed court reporter with Tokyo deployment experience through the NCRA directory or an international deposition services agency.

4. Identify and confirm a certified Japanese-English legal interpreter for the deposition through the AIIC directory (aiic.net) and a separate medical interpreter for the IME.

5. Transmit the complete medical record package to the examining US orthopaedic surgeon and schedule a pre-examination protocol call with the in-room Tokyo examiner at least one week before the IME date.

If the recommended approach is followed promptly, both the IME and deposition can be completed within the eight-week window, producing a US board-certified orthopaedic examination report and a certified deposition transcript suitable for direct use before the DOL administrative law judge.

--- END OF BRIEFING ---





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OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

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