

# **Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Research Agenda**

## **Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group**

### **Introduction**

Texas Labor Code §405.0026 requires the commissioner of workers' compensation to adopt a research agenda each year for the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group (REG) at the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI).

Labor Code §405.0026 requires the REG to prepare a research agenda each year for the commissioner to review, approve, and publish in the *Texas Register*.

Labor Code §405.0025 requires the REG to conduct professional studies and research related to how effectively the workers' compensation system operates.

Texas Insurance Code §1305.502 requires the REG to develop and issue an informational report card each even-numbered year that objectively identifies and compares certified health care networks with each other and with claims outside of those networks.

### **Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Research Agenda**

The REG proposes the following research projects:

1. An update of medical costs and utilization in the Texas workers' compensation system, with additional attention on the cost and utilization of office visits and physical medicine services.
2. An analysis of injured employee access to medical care provided under the workers' compensation system, including an analysis of access to medical care through TDI-certified workers' compensation health care networks.
3. An update of return-to-work outcomes for injured employees, including an examination of injured Texas employees' initial and sustained return-to-work rates and wage-recovery rates.
4. An updated analysis of the impact of the pharmacy closed formulary on the utilization and cost patterns in pharmacy prescriptions for new and legacy claims and post-formulary trends in the utilization of physical medicine in the Texas workers' compensation system.

The REG will consider expanding the scope of the research projects or conducting more projects to accommodate stakeholder suggestions, subject to the resources and data available.

## **Request for Comments or Public Hearing**

You may submit comments on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Research Agenda or request a public hearing in writing no later than 5 p.m., Central time, on October 10, 2022. A hearing request must be on a separate page from any written comments.

Email your comments or hearing request to [RuleComments@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:RuleComments@tdi.texas.gov) or mail them to DWC Legal Services, MC-LS, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation, PO Box 12050, Austin, Texas 78711-2050.

Copies of the proposed research agenda are on the [TDI website](#). Please email any questions about this agenda to Botao Shi at [wcresearch@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:wcresearch@tdi.texas.gov).