



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Division of Workers' Compensation - Office of General Counsel (MS-15)

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memo

To: Workers' Compensation System Participants
From: Emily McCoy, Associate General Counsel, Division of Workers' Compensation
Date: May 19, 2017
RE: Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group FY 2017 Research Agenda

The commissioner of workers' compensation adopts, effective immediately, the following FY 2017 Research Agenda for the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group (REG):

1. Completion and publication of the 11th edition of the Workers' Compensation Health Care Network Report Card (required under Insurance Code § 1305.502(a) – (d) and Labor Code § 405.0025(b)).
2. Baseline evaluation of the utilization and cost patterns of compound drugs.
3. A comprehensive analysis of the income benefit adequacy of claims receiving Temporary Income Benefits (TIBs), Supplemental Income Benefits (SIBs), Lifetime Income Benefits (LIBs), and Death Benefits.
4. Update of 2003 study on impact of accredited and non-accredited work-hardening/work conditioning programs.

Under Texas Labor Code § 405.0025, the REG is charged with conducting professional studies and research related to: 1) the delivery of benefits; 2) litigation and controversy related to workers' compensation; 3) insurance rates and ratemaking procedures; 4) rehabilitation and reemployment of injured employees; 5) the quality and cost of medical benefits; 6) employer participation in the workers' compensation system; 7) employment health and safety issues; and 8) other matters relevant to the cost, quality, and operational effectiveness of the workers' compensation system.

The Division of Workers' Compensation published the proposed research agenda in the February 24, 2017 issue of the *Texas Register* (42 TexReg 830).

The adopted agenda will be published in the May 12, 2017 edition of the *Texas Register* and will be available at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml> once published. You may also visit the Division of Workers' Compensation website at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/indexwc.html> for copies of the research agenda. You may send any questions you have regarding the agenda to D.C. Campbell at wcresearch@tdi.texas.gov.