

Adopted Fiscal Year 2026 Research Agenda Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group

Introduction

The commissioner of workers' compensation considers the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Research Agenda for the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group (REG) at the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC).

Texas 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.

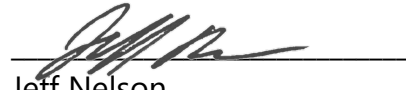
DWC published the proposed research agenda in the August 15, 2025, issue of the *Texas Register* (50 TexReg 5377) and sought public review and comment. DWC received four comments and no requests for a public hearing.

Order

It is ordered that the FY 2026 Research Agenda for the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group is adopted as follows:

1. Completion and publication of the 18th 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. An update of medical costs and utilization in the Texas workers' compensation system.
3. An update of return-to-work outcomes for injured employees, including an examination of Texas injured employees' initial and sustained return-to-work rates and wage-recovery rates.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Nelson", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Jeff Nelson

Commissioner

TDI, Division of Workers' Compensation