

Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 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.

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The REG proposes the following research projects:

1. A study to evaluate the feasibility and impact of adopting a more current version of the *American Medical Association Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment*. The REG will complete the project with the assistance of the Medical Quality Review Panel. This study is contingent on the American Medical Association's publication of the 2024 revisions to the musculoskeletal chapters 15-17.
2. An update of medical costs and utilization in the Texas workers' compensation system.
3. An analysis of designated doctors and scheduling companies in the Texas workers' compensation system by evaluating the performance of designated doctors and scheduling companies using metrics such as rescheduled exams, timeliness of reports, and timeliness of payments.

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 2025 Research Agenda or request a public hearing in writing no later than 5:00 p.m., Central time, on September 16, 2024. A hearing request must be on a separate page from any written comments.

Email your comments or hearing request to 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.