

FY 2013 Proposed Research Agenda for the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group at the Texas Department of Insurance

1. Completion and publication of the seventh edition of Workers' Compensation Health Care Network Report Card (required under Insurance Code §§1305.502(a)-(d) and Labor Code §405.0025(b)).
2. An annual examination of the frequency of employers and workers' compensation claims participating in certified health care delivery networks (required under Insurance Code §2053.012(a) and Labor Code §405.0025(b)).
3. An annual update of medical costs and utilization in the Texas workers' compensation system (required under Labor Code §405.0025(a)(4)).
4. An annual update of return-to-work outcomes for injured workers, including an examination of the impact of pharmaceutical utilization on RTW rates (required under Labor Code §405.0025(a)(4)).
5. An analysis of the impact of the evidence-based ODG Treatment Guideline on non-network treatment utilization, medical costs, and other outcomes (required under Labor Code §405.0025(a)(4)).

6. An analysis of income benefit disputes, particularly outcome trends on disputed issues such as impairment ratings, compensability, extent of injury, and the ability of an injured employee to return-to-work (required under Labor Code §405.0025(a)(4)).

7. An analysis of the impact of the pharmacy closed formulary on the utilization and costs patterns in pharmacy prescriptions for new and legacy claims (required under Labor Code §405.0025(a)(4)).