

Proposed FY 2014 Research Agenda
Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group
Texas Department of Insurance

Labor Code §405.0026 requires the commissioner of insurance to adopt an annual research agenda for the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group (REG) at the Texas Department of Insurance. To accomplish this, TDI must publish a proposed research agenda in the Texas Register for public review and comment. Upon request, the commissioner will hold a public hearing on the proposed research agenda.

Each year, the REG requests research agenda suggestions from legislative offices, stakeholders, and the general public. The REG uses the following criteria to evaluate the responses:

- Is the proposed research project required by statute or likely to be part of an upcoming legislative review?
- Will the results of the proposed research project address the information needs of multiple stakeholder groups and/or legislative committees?
- Are there available data to complete the project or can data be obtained easily and economically to complete the project?
- Does the REG have sufficient resources to complete the project within FY 2014?

The REG proposes the following projects for the FY 2014 Research Agenda.

1. Completion and publication of the eighth 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 update of the 2012 biennial study to estimate employer participation in the Texas workers' compensation system (required by Insurance Code §2053.012(a) and Labor Code §405.0025). The report is due on December 1, 2014.

3. An update of the 2012 Setting the Standard biennial report on the impact of the 2005 House Bill (HB) 7 legislative reforms on the Texas workers' compensation system. In accordance with Insurance Code §2053.012 and Labor Code §405.0025, this report presents results on the affordability and availability of workers' compensation insurance for Texas employers as well as the impact of certified workers' compensation health care networks on return-to-work outcomes, medical costs, quality of care issues and medical dispute resolution. The report is due on December 1, 2014.

4. An annual update of medical costs and utilization in the Texas workers' compensation system (required under Labor Code §405.0025(a)(4)).

5. An annual update of return-to-work outcomes for injured workers, including an examination of the initial and sustained RTW rates and the wage-recovery rates of injured employees in Texas (required under Labor Code §405.0025(a)(4)).

6. A comprehensive analysis of claims receiving Supplemental Income Benefits (SIBs), Lifetime Income Benefits (LIBs), and Death Benefits (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)).

We invite stakeholders to send us questions and/or suggestions for the research agenda. If you do, please send them to DC Campbell (WCResearch@tdi.texas.gov) by December 9, 2013.