

**Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 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. On 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 2017?

The REG proposes the following projects for the FY 2017 Research Agenda.

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 (required under Labor Code §405.0025(a)(5)).

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 (required under Labor Code §405.0025(a)(4)).

4. Update of 2003 study on impact of accredited and non-accredited work-hardening/work conditioning programs (required under Labor Code §405.0025(a)(5)).

Depending on resource requirements during the 85th Texas legislative session, REG may modify existing projects as required.

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 16, 2016.