

## **Adopted Fiscal Year 2025 Research Agenda Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group**

### **Introduction**

The commissioner of workers' compensation considers the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 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 §405.0025 requires the REG to conduct professional studies and research related to how effectively the workers' compensation system operates. Section 405.0026 requires the REG to annually publish a workers' compensation research agenda listing the topics the REG will study for that year.

DWC published the proposed research agenda in the August 16, 2024, issue of the *Texas Register* (49 TexReg 6316) and sought public review and comment. DWC received one comment and no requests for a public hearing.

### **Order**

It is ordered that the FY 2025 Research Agenda for the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group is adopted as follows:

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.

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

Jeff Nelson

Commissioner

TDI, Division of Workers' Compensation