

Hospital Records for Occupational Injuries in Construction Predict Workers' Compensation Outcomes

Characterizing the relationship between in-hospital measures and workers' compensation outcomes among severely injured construction workers using a data linkage strategy

Peter Ruestow and Lee Friedman. American Journal of Industrial Medicine, October 2013.

Overview

Researchers from the University of Illinois – Chicago explored the relationship between hospital records and workers compensation awards for occupational injuries in construction. By linking the Illinois Trauma Registry (ITR), the Hospital Discharge database (HD), and the Illinois Workers Compensation Claims database (IWCC -C), researchers gained a better understanding of the relationship between acute injury and long-term impairment and disability. Injuries with a higher Injury Severity Score (ISS) were more likely to result in temporary disability and higher monetary workers compensation awards.

Key Findings

- Each categorical increase in the New Injury Severity Score (NISS – a modified ISS measurement) was associated with an additional \$7,380 in monetary workers compensation awarded.
- Every extra day spent in the hospital was associated with an additional one-half week of Temporary Total Disability (TTD) and an additional \$1,248 in monetary workers compensation.
- Workers discharged to an intermediate care facility after hospitalization averaged more than eight weeks more TTD than those sent directly home, and were awarded an additional \$23,440 in monetary workers' compensation.
- These relationships between acute care and long-term outcomes can help employers, employees, and insurers plan for the aftermath of occupational injuries.

For more information, contact:

Lee Friedman: lfried1@uic.edu

See abstract:

<http://bit.ly/1uZhhrL>

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