

In Good "Co"mpany: A Talk on the Challenge of Comorbidities in Workers' Compensation Claims

September 29, 2015



Comorbidities

Definitions



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Types of Comorbidities

- Genetic
- Life Style
- Incident Driven



Affects in the Workers' Compensation Systems

- Trends seen in the workforce
- Medical Treatment Utilization
- Costs
- Claims



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Return to Work Considerations

- Treatment
- Type of Job
- Length of Disability
- Permanent Limitations



Tools of Prediction

ACOEM Guidelines
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

MD Guidelines
Includes a link to the Medical Disability Advisor (MDA)

ODG Login
Official Disability Guidelines Home page

Predictive Modeling

- Scaled Weighting System
- Factors to Consider



Top Comorbidities

GUESS

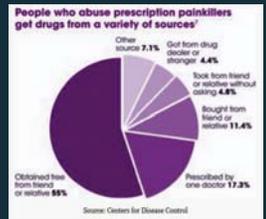


Impact in Healthcare Arena

- Varied State Jurisdictions
- HealthCare Reimbursement Pools
- Employer Plans

Future Studies

- Drug Abuse
- Geographic
- Age and Gender
- Pain Management



50 Year Old Male, Road Construction Worker

DOI: 5-1-15

Injuries: While walking on a roadside embankment, he slipped and twisted his left knee.

Diagnosis: Left Knee Meniscus Tear

Comorbidities: Previous Surgeries
Osteoarthritis to the left knee



18 Year Old Female, Day Camp Worker

DOI: June 1, 2014

Injuries: Slipped and fell in the water while lifting/loading a canoe.

Diagnosis: Back pain, right sided shoulder pain

Comorbidities: Psych Conditions
Fibromyalgia
Insomnia
Asthma
History of previous hospitalizations
Hereditary Connective Tissue Disorder



39 Year Old, Corrections Officer

DOI: May 2012

Injuries: Aggravated right shoulder when restraining inmate

Diagnosis: MRI showed fraying of tendons, surgery recommended

Comorbidities: Prior Right Shoulder Surgery
Blood Clot in Lungs developed in 2013

#3



39 Year Old Male, Police Officer

DOI: 4-21-13

Injuries: Car accident which injured neck and back

Diagnosis: Lumbar Fusion Recommended

Comorbidities: Daily Smoker for 20 Years

#4



28 Year Old, Court Reporter

DOI: December 2014

Injuries: Pain and numbness in thumb, index and middle fingers

Diagnosis: Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Comorbidities: 8 Months Pregnant

#5



48 Year Old Male, Tech II

DOI: 8-5-14

Injuries: Walking to truck on uneven terrain, twisted left ankle

Diagnosis: Surgery for tendon tears

Comorbidities: 5.9" and weighs 285 pounds
Post Po incisional infection

#6



62 Year Old Female, Nurse

DOI: 2-1-14

Injuries: Trips on mat and sprains left ankle

Diagnosis: Left ankle sprain

Comorbidities: Partial Hearing Loss in right ear
Genetic carrier: hemochromatosis
Prior right ankle sprain

#7



Thank you!
Questions??

