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

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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
**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

Sample Report #1
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

Sample Report #2
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

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

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

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
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

Thank you! Questions??