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NEWSLETTER

Diabetes is a common, chronic condition that continues to be on the rise in the United States. There's no sugar coating the impact of the disease in the population, which affects 37 million people (plus an alarming 97 million with pre-diabetes who stand to progress to diabetes). As the seventh leading cause of death, diabetes, which leads to blood sugar dysregulation in the body, can impact many body parts including the kidneys, eyes, and nerves.

While there is understandably a large burden to the patient and public health in general, employers aren't immune to the ill effects of the disease either, namely, the costs. In a recent study by Nomi Health, the cost to employers is in the billions each year. \$245 billion, to be exact, is attributed to medical and pharmacy costs (\$175 billion) and other productivity and employee absence costs (\$70 billion) annually.

It goes without saying that diabetes can complicate claims through many avenues including increased disability and medical complexity, medication costs, slow wound and trauma healing, and even unnecessary surgeries.

You may be asking, 'How can unnecessary surgeries possibly be a factor in increasing claims costs in those with diabetes'?

Simply put, this is because diabetes is the number one leading cause of neuropathy. Numbness, tingling, and pain can all be related to diabetic neuropathy but masquerade as other conditions such as cervical or lumbar radiculopathy, especially in the presence of recent trauma. It takes an educated and experienced EMG provider to elicit whether the cause of neuropathy is related to diabetes or not. Should a diabetic person be wrongly diagnosed with, for instance, carpal tunnel syndrome, they may be subject to unnecessary surgical correction that won't resolve their symptoms and lead to increased claims costs.

Dr. John Robinton, MD

Fellow of the Academy of Neurology

Board Certified in Neurology and Neurophysiology

by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology

Authentic4D Chief Clinical Officer

www.authentic4d.com

www.Linkedin.com

Source: <https://workerscompensation.com/new-analysis-shows-diabetes-costs-employers-245-billion-annually/id=33790>

Our mailing address is:

Authentic4D
30800 Telegraph Rd, Ste 4775
Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025-4536

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