



# Authentic4D™

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## NEWSLETTER

A recent [report out by the Workers' Compensation Research Institute \(WCRI\)](#) focused on the results of a lower back pain study<sup>1</sup>. In the study, data was collected on low back pain patients at the beginning and end of their physical medicine treatment courses. In this case, physical medicine refers to physical or occupational therapy.

The study looked at non-surgical, physical medicine and extended physical medicine cases, where extended physical medicine sessions were defined as treatments lasting longer than three months. They then compared the claims findings within the workers' compensation group and to non-workers' compensation groups. [Results showed](#) that workers' compensation patients had the lowest reported level of functional improvement but the highest rate of extended physical medicine use. They also found that workers' compensation claimants with extended physical medicine management had<sup>2,3</sup>:

- Longer periods of disability
- Increased treatment costs
- 3x higher indemnity costs
- Multiple medical providers
- 7+ days of missed work 59% of the time
- A higher percentage of neurological back conditions
- Multiple medical conditions
- An attorney

Extended physical medicine patients also were more likely to use other healthcare resources such as pain medications, epidural injections, or imaging. They also were more likely to have extended physical medicine management if they were in lower-risk settings (ie: an office job). Physical medicine, pain medicine, procedures, and surgeries all add up, not to mention imaging costs. Join us for part two of our low back pain series in September's newsletter and learn more on how getting the imaging right up front can save thousands per claim in low back pain patients.

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Sources:

1 [https://ww2.authentic4d.com/e/756213/-compensation-and-other-payors/7kjk6k/433251655?](https://ww2.authentic4d.com/e/756213/-compensation-and-other-payors/7kjk6k/433251655?h=zndvYVeXu81Dwl24McoNlcPLldX8nBTnoNFOfcgYaeg)

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2 [https://ww2.authentic4d.com/e/756213/al-medicine-for-low-back-pain-/7kjk6r/433251655?](https://ww2.authentic4d.com/e/756213/al-medicine-for-low-back-pain-/7kjk6r/433251655?h=zndvYVeXu81Dwl24McoNlcPLldX8nBTnoNFOfcgYaeg)

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3 [https://ww2.authentic4d.com/e/756213/ational-2023-03-22-316017-htm-/7kjk6v/433251655?](https://ww2.authentic4d.com/e/756213/ational-2023-03-22-316017-htm-/7kjk6v/433251655?h=zndvYVeXu81Dwl24McoNlcPLldX8nBTnoNFOfcgYaeg)

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