

The Right Treatment at the Right Time

Why managing worker disability durations matters

The U.S. misses over 1.4 billion workdays due to injury or illness. How long someone is away from work is affected by both medical and non-medical factors. But research shows that returning to work after an injury or illness by using evidence-based care is good for both physical and mental health.



Physicians

who manage cases improve patient outcomes by minimizing life disruption and avoiding unnecessary medical care.



Physician recommendations are highly variable and are often affected by external factors such as attitudes, patient requests, employer characteristics, and jurisdiction.¹

Case managers

set expectations by discussing timelines and encouraging goal setting for recovery and returning to work.



Setting pain expectations before surgery has been shown to decrease subsequent requests for opioids.²



Employers

discuss modified or transitional duty to help employees feel valued.



Workplace factors have been cited as a major barrier to return to work.³

1. (Raineville et al. 2005)
2. (Pino, Covington 2019)
3. (Talmage et al. 2011; Soklaridis et al. 2011; Peters et al. 2018)

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