
RESEARCH PROGRAM

Research Project Details	
Title	Validation and Refinement of the Work Assessment Triage Tool for Selecting Rehabilitation Interventions for Injured Workers
Investigator(s)	Dr. Doug Gross, University of Alberta
Funding Period	September 2017 – June 2019
Budget	\$32,213
Issue/Rationale	The Work Assessment Triage Tool (WATT) was developed using data from the Workers' Compensation Board of Alberta (WCB-Alberta) and categorizes claimants based on likelihood of successful return-to-work (RTW) following various types of rehabilitation. The WATT uses claimant characteristics that influence RTW including demographic, occupational, injury-related, functional, and psychosocial factors.
Objective(s)	Research objectives are to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Conduct an external validation of the existing WATT algorithm on a separate dataset containing information on WCB-Alberta claimants undergoing work assessment between 2012-2015.2. Refine and update the WATT algorithm with new potential classifiers and outcome variables that are now available within the WCB-Alberta administrative and healthcare services database.
Anticipated Results/ Impact	The main outcome of this project will be improved rehabilitation triage decision-making for workers' compensation claimants through use of a validated tool that helps make personalized decisions.
Keywords	WATT, rehabilitation, validation study, triage, clinical decision support tool