

<b>Title:</b>	Understanding how physicians allocate causation in musculoskeletal disease
<b>Issue/Rationale:</b>	The aim of this project is to better understand how physicians decide whether an injury or illness, potentially referable to WCB, is work-related. While ultimately WCB is responsible for making determinations of causation, and hence entitlement, a physician's opinion may carry considerable weight in this process. Where physicians' opinions are unclear or conflict on the issue of causation, there may be considerable delays in determining entitlement while the medical issues are ascertained.
<b>Objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To understand how physicians view causation generally, and how they understand terms such as 'more likely than not' and 'balance of probabilities'.</li> <li>• To identify factors that determine whether a case would be judged to be caused by work or not, using a number of standardized case scenarios of patients with musculoskeletal disorders</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Results/Impact:</b>	By better understanding the factors by which physicians determine causation WCB should be able to identify those injuries and illnesses where causation is likely to be attributed to work, or conversely to non-work factors. Where the attribution of causation can be predicted with a high degree of accuracy this could be used to speed decisions on entitlement. The resources that this makes available could then be used to expedite cases where the attribution of causation cannot be predicted with a high degree of accuracy.
<b>Keywords:</b>	Causation
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