

Title:	Does functional capacity evaluation (FCE) predict return to work in claimants with work-related upper extremity injuries?
Research Category:	Category 1: occupational disease, injury and health services
Issue/rationale:	The kinesio-physical Isernhagen Work Systems' FCE protocol is used internationally and throughout WCB-Alberta authorized health care provider network to guide return-to-work and claims management decisions for injured workers. The predictive value is known in cases of low back injury; however, FCE is commonly used with claimants with upper extremity injuries and these claims are a growing problem in terms of work loss. Therefore the predictive value must therefore be determined
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To determine the prognostic value of the Isernhagen FCE in claimants with upper extremity injuries. • To determine whether there is a higher prognostic value in claimants who have sustained upper extremity fractures, dislocations or amputations than in claimants with other upper extremity injuries.
Anticipated Results/Impact:	Knowing the prognostic value will allow clinicians and case managers to know how much weight or trust to put on FCE when predicting whether an injured worker will be able to return to work successfully. If the FCE is a poor predictor, then little emphasis should be placed on the results. However, if the FCE is a good predictor then it remains a very important tool for making case management decisions.
Keywords:	Isernhagen, return to work, upper extremity
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