

Title: **The Clinical Model and Cost Effectiveness of OEM and Its Impact on Injury Management**

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Abstract:

The demands of industrial and commercial life have resulted in an expanding role for physicians along with an expansion of their areas of expertise to encompass active involvement in the working lives of their patients, in the daily need of our economy and in building relationships with employer clients to maintain healthy and productive workers. This evolution has brought about the Occupational and Environmental Medicine (OEM) providers. The practice of OEM requires a partnership among the physician, the worker, the physical therapist, and the employer in maintaining a healthy and productive workplace while maximizing the opportunity for workers to excel in their individual jobs. This article serves to define OEM, the role and goal of the OEM physicians and their abilities to make "dual diagnosis" within the clinical model. Furthermore, a cost benefit analysis was conducted using a sample of 171,000 paid claims across the United States for three large workers compensation insurers to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of OEM practice and its impact on injury care management. The final analysis revealed that claims in which OEM based physicians provided care were 33% less expensive than claims treated outside the OEM physician network.