

The **Workers' Compensation Work Institute** analyzed data from 14 large states (i.e., Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin) from claims with an average of 3 years experience. These cases arose from October 2002 through September 2003 with experience through March 2005. The data came from private insurers, state insurance funds and self-insurers.

Nearly 14% of medical costs were paid to treat workers with back conditions involving disc conditions or radicular symptoms (e.g., radiating pain in the limbs). Nonspecific low back pain constituted about one in seven cases and 11% of medical payments.

Add these two conditions and you have **25% of the most important medical payment conditions in Workers Compensation**. Doesn't this important fact deserve some very specific attention, if employers are to achieve relief from this very significant expenditure?