

RateFast Clinical White Paper Case Study: The Settlement Effectiveness of Applying RateFast Compass™ Pro Maximal Medical Improvement (MMI) Tool for Settlement Alchemy Logic Systems/RateFast Released: September 30, 2024

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Abstract

This paper explores the effectiveness of the RateFast Compass™ Maximal Medical Improvement (MMI) Tool in accelerating workers' compensation claim settlements in orthopedic body parts such as the spine, upper, and lower extremities. A study was conducted involving 69 California workers' compensation cases to determine the time from date of injury to settlement impairment reporting (DWC PR-4 report) compared to the state-standard 16-month average for claim settlement in California workers' compensation cases¹.

The results in this study demonstrate that using the RateFast Compass™ Pro MMI Tool provides faster claim settlements, with an overall average time to MMI of 7 months, significantly reducing settlement timelines across most orthopedic body part groups. This study marks the beginning of scientific data investigation regarding assistive software tools and actual claim shortening time impact for impairment rating enhancement in the California's workers' compensation system, with the potential for broader applications in other body systems and jurisdictions.

Keywords: California workers' compensation, claim settlement, DWC PR-4 report, spine injury, upper extremity injury, lower extremity injury, RateFast Compass Pro MMI Tool, RateFast impairment software.

Motivation

The primary motivation for this study is to explore how technology-driven and algorithm-based tools, specifically the RateFast Compass™ Pro MMI Tool, can effectively shorten the duration of workers' compensation claims. The tool works by setting independent timelines tailored to each case, considering the specific body system, body part, and date of injury. It proactively prompts the user with next steps if MMI has not been achieved at the time of data entry, ensuring that appropriate actions such as ordering medications, scheduling therapy, arranging diagnostic testing, or consulting with specialists for potential surgical intervention are completed on time. By recommending optimal dates for these actions, the tool helps streamline care and improve claim management efficiency.

Additionally, the tool estimates potential financial losses when a claim is not proceeding according to the established timeline, highlighting delays that could lead to unnecessary expenses. The RateFast Compass™ Pro MMI Tool also provides an estimated or "advisory" MMI date, allowing stakeholders to plan more effectively for claim settlement and the timely

The RateFast Compass™ Pro MMI Tool
Clinical Data Survey

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delivery of benefits. By integrating this level of precision and predictive analytics, the tool ensures that all stakeholders—including injured workers, physicians, insurance adjusters, attorneys, and employers—benefit from faster, more efficient, and more accurate claim management and processing.

Study Design

This retrospective study involved a total of 69 cases reviewed for time from the date of injury to MMI as reflected in the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) PR-4 report. The RateFast Compass™ Pro MMI Tool was employed to create and manage timelines, as well as recommend requests for authorization for medications, therapy, diagnostic tests and specialty consultations, while forecasting MMI. Cases were included if they were initiated within 90 days of the Doctor's First Report (DFR 5120) for the practice. The study focused on the most injured orthopedic body parts, categorized as follows:

- **Spine:** Cervical (N=5), Thoracic (N=6), Lumbar (N=17)
- **Upper Extremity:** (N=26) [Arm (N=1), Shoulder (N=11), Elbow (N=2), Hand (N=4), Wrist (N=6), Fingers/Thumb (N=2)]
- **Lower Extremity:** (N=15) [Hip (N=2), Knee (N=9), Ankle/Foot (N=4)]

Methodology

Standardized methods and usual grounding techniques were used to analyze the time to MMI for all cases. Results were compared to the 16-month published average settlement time for workers' compensation claims in California¹. Each body part grouping, including the spine segments, the upper extremity and lower extremity groups, were examined individually to assess how the RateFast Compass™ Pro MMI Tool affects settlement time.

Findings

- **All Body Parts (N=69):**
 - **Average Time to MMI:** 7 months (9 months faster than the state average of 16 months)
 - **Median:** 4 months
 - **Standard Deviation:** 7.43
- **Cervical Spine (N=5):**
 - **Average Time to MMI:** 6 months (10 months faster than the state average of 16 months)

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- **Median:** 3 months
- **Standard Deviation:** 6.3
- **Thoracic Spine (N=6):**
 - **Average Time to MMI:** 6 months (10 months faster than the state average of 16 months)
 - **Median:** 6 months
 - **Standard Deviation:** 5.88
- **Lumbar Spine (N=17):**
 - **Average Time to MMI:** 8 months (8 months faster than the state average of 16 months)
 - **Median:** 4 months
 - **Standard Deviation:** 6.81
- **Upper Extremity (N=26):**
 - **Average Time to MMI:** 9 months (7 months faster than the state average of 16 months)
 - **Median:** 4.5 months
 - **Standard Deviation:** 9.38
- **Lower Extremity (N=15):**
 - **Average Time to MMI:** 7 months (9 months faster than the state average of 16 months)
 - **Median:** 4 months
 - **Standard Deviation:** 5.40

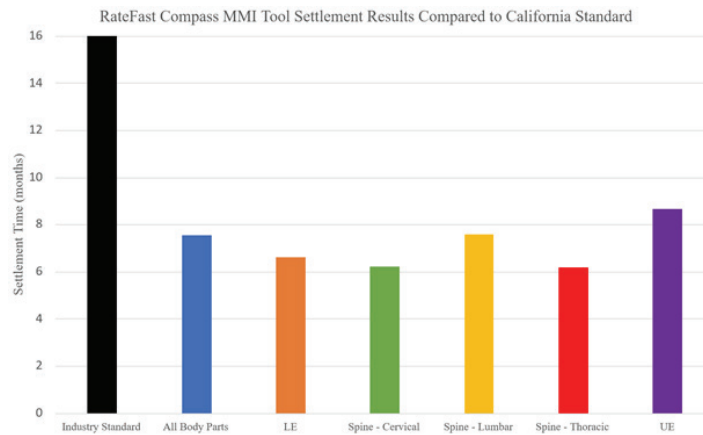
Summary Data Tables and Graph

Data Table 1.

| | Time from RateFast DFR to MMI (months) | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| | All Body Parts | LE | Spine - Cervical | Spine - Lumbar | Spine - Thoracic | UE |
| AVERAGE: | 8 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 9 |
| MEDIAN: | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 4.5 |
| STD DEV (S): | 7.43 | 5.40 | 6.30 | 6.81 | 5.88 | 9.38 |
| N (# of Cases): | 69 | 15 | 5 | 17 | 6 | 26 |
| % of 16 month benchmark: | 47.2% | 41.3% | 38.8% | 47.4% | 38.5% | 54.1% |

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Data Graph 1.



Conclusion

The data from this study demonstrates a significant improvement in reducing the average time to claim settlement when using the RateFast Compass™ Pro MMI Tool. Across all body parts, the average settlement time is reduced by 9 months compared to the state average of 16 months¹. These findings suggest that specialized assistive software tools like the RateFast Compass™ may improve the efficiency of workers' compensation claim management in California, offering potential benefits for other regions and body system management.

To learn more about the RateFast Compass™ Pro MMI Tool visit: <https://rate-fast.com/mmi/>

Reference

1. [California Workers' Compensation Settlement Chart.](#)