

# CLINICAL PREDICTORS OF COMPENSATION FOCUS

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## Introduction

The financial compensation provided by some insurance systems for injuries may lead to compensation focus (1, 2), which may disincentivize the patient to cooperate with the treatment process. However, the characteristics of patients with compensation focus are not well understood.

## Objectives

The purpose of this study was to determine whether BHI-2 scales (3) and pain variables can predict compensation focus.

## Methods

A stepwise multiple regression was conducted to determine whether BHI-2 scales and pain variables can predict compensation focus. The participants were 716 patients being treated for pain or injury in 90 rehabilitation facilities in 30 states. The dependent variable was a validated measure of compensation focus.

**Table 1. Multiple Regression Results**

Step/Variable	R <sup>2</sup>	β	ρ
1. Symptom dependency	.271	.194	.000
2. Doctor dissatisfaction	.334	.259	.000
3. Perception of function	.366	.185	.000
4. Pain tolerance	.375	-.114	.001
5. Hostility	.384	.180	.000
6. Perseverance	.397	.147	.000

## Results

Regression results indicated that the overall model significantly predicted compensation focus ( $p < .001$ ) and accounted for 40% of variance in scores. Significant regression coefficients were found for symptom dependency, doctor dissatisfaction, functional complaints, pain intolerance, hostility, and perseverance (see Table 1 below).

## Conclusions

The identified variables suggest the desire for financial compensation for a medical condition is significantly, positively associated with standardized test scales assessing:

- a tendency to use physical symptoms to form dependent attachments on others,
- a perception of the medical profession as being empathic and incompetent agents of the system,
- self-perception of disability,
- an increased tendency to be intolerant of pain,
- an increased level of hostility, defined as including angry affect, aggressive behavior, and cynical beliefs about others, and
- levels of determination and self-efficacy.

## References

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