

Pain Medicine

Claims Data Snapshot

▶ Introduction

- ▶ This publication contains an analysis of the aggregated data from MedPro Group's cases closing between 2009-2018 in which a pain medicine specialist is identified as the primary responsible service.
 - ▶ A malpractice case can have more than one responsible service, but the “primary responsible service” is the specialty that is deemed to be most responsible for the resulting patient outcome.
- ▶ Our data system, and analysis, rolls all claims/suits related to an individual patient event into one case for coding purposes. Therefore, a case may be made up of one or more individual claims/suits and multiple defendant types such as hospital, physician, or ancillary providers.
 - ▶ Cases that involve attorney representations at depositions, State Board actions, and general liability cases are not included.
- ▶ This analysis is designed to provide insured doctors, healthcare professionals, hospitals, health systems, and associated risk management staff with detailed case data to assist them in purposefully focusing their risk management and patient safety efforts.

▶ Allegations



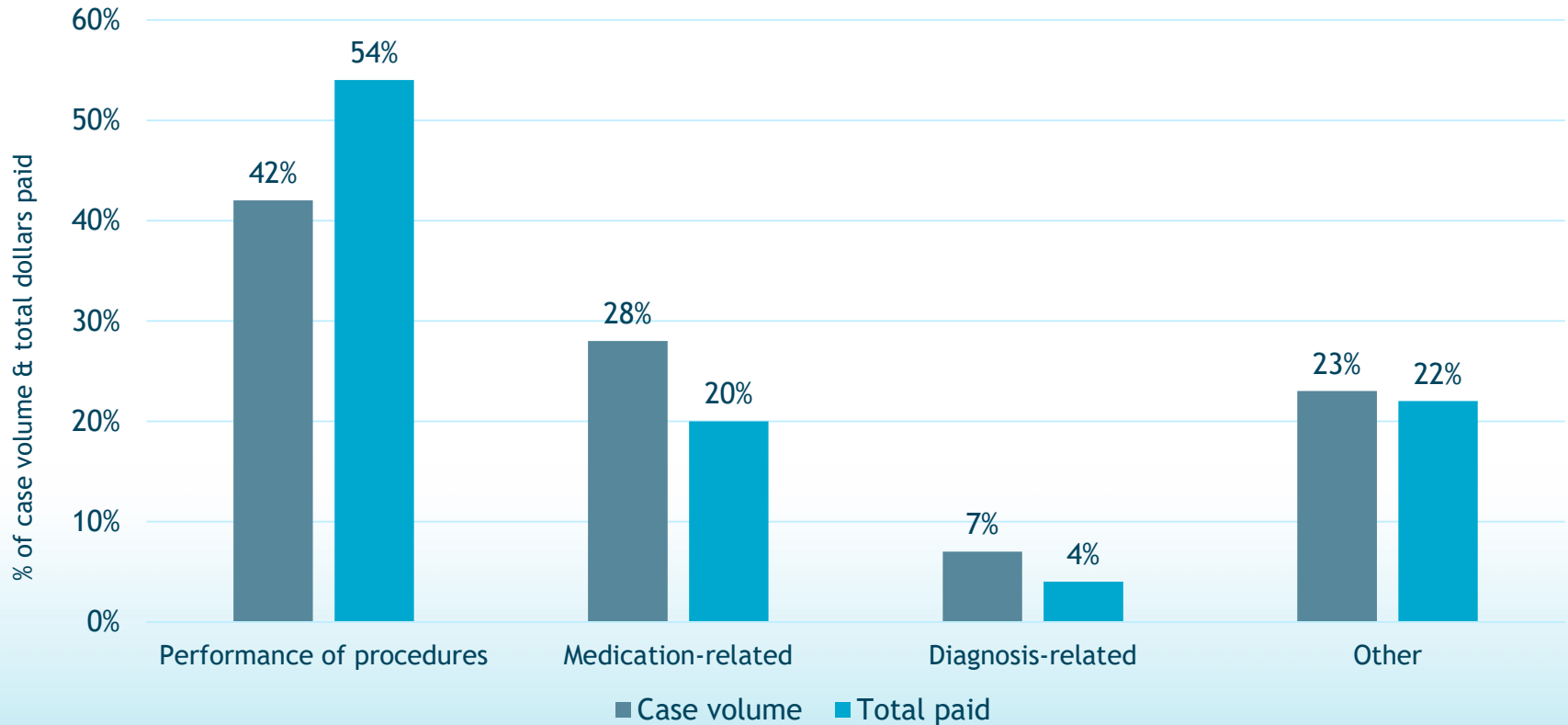
Multiple allegation types can be assigned to each case; however, only one “major” allegation is assigned that best characterizes the essence of the case.



Performance of procedures and medication-related allegations account for more than two-thirds of pain medicine cases.

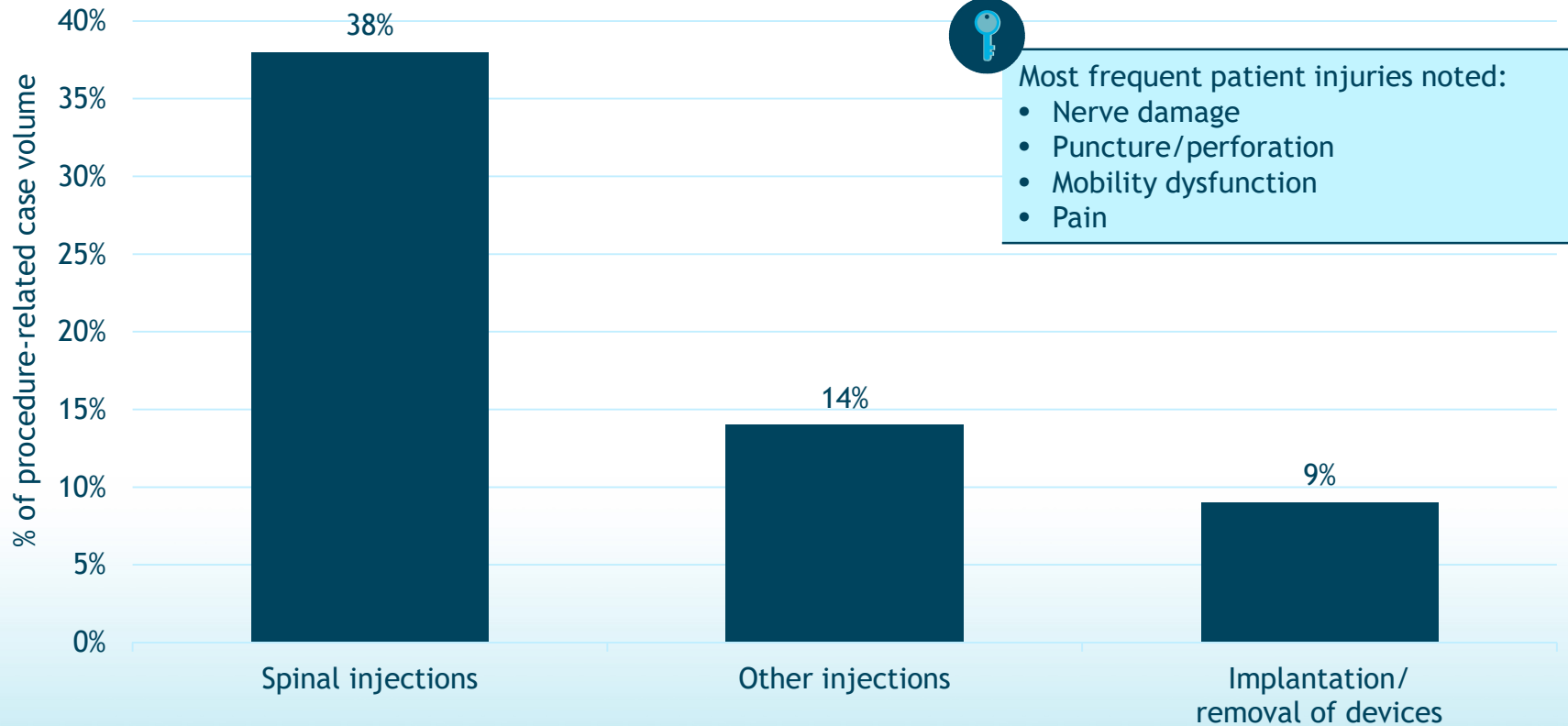
Procedural allegations account for the largest individual share of case volume and total dollars paid.

▶ Allegations & dollars

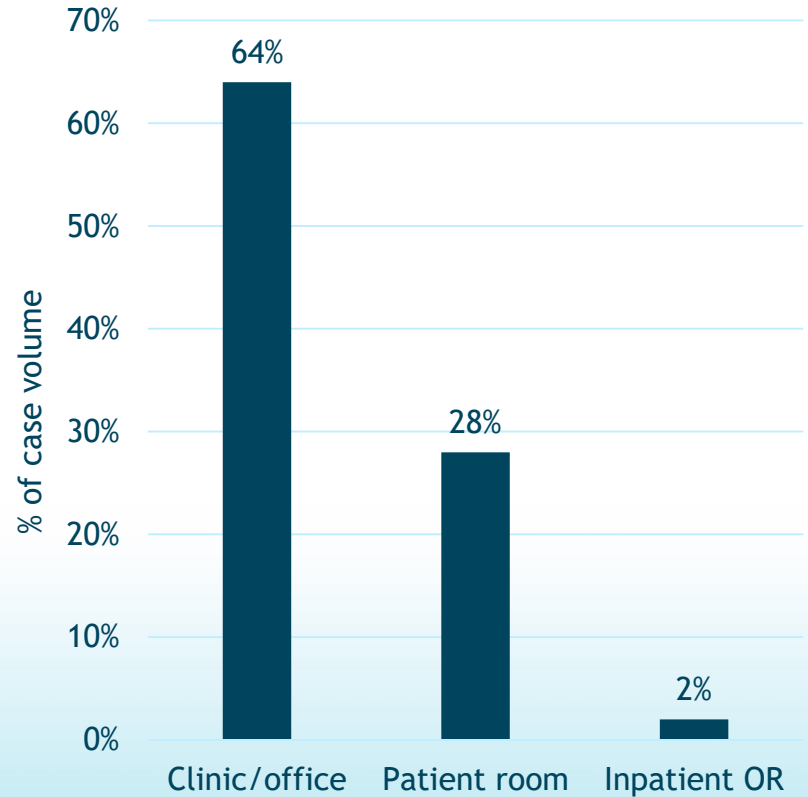
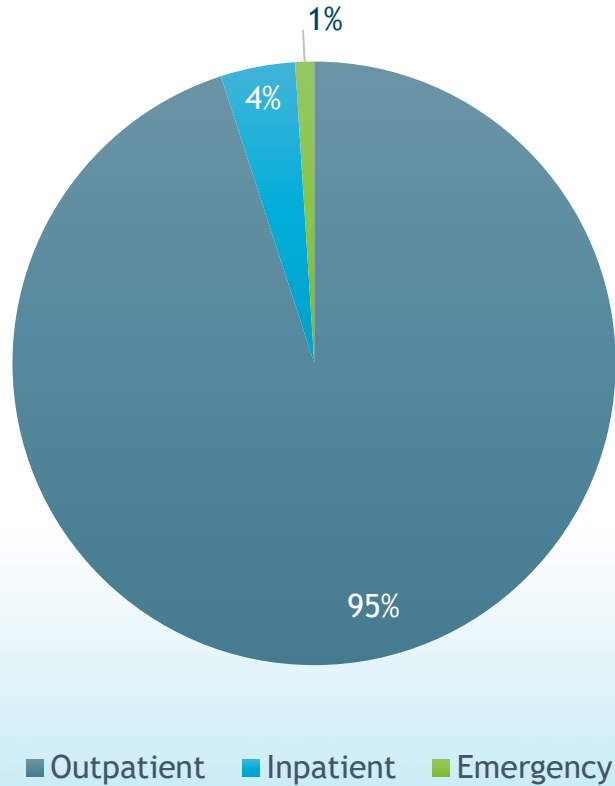


Data source: MedPro Group closed cases, pain medicine as responsible service, 2009-2018; total paid = expense + indemnity dollars; "other" includes allegations for which no significant case volume exists.

▶ Top procedures in procedural performance cases

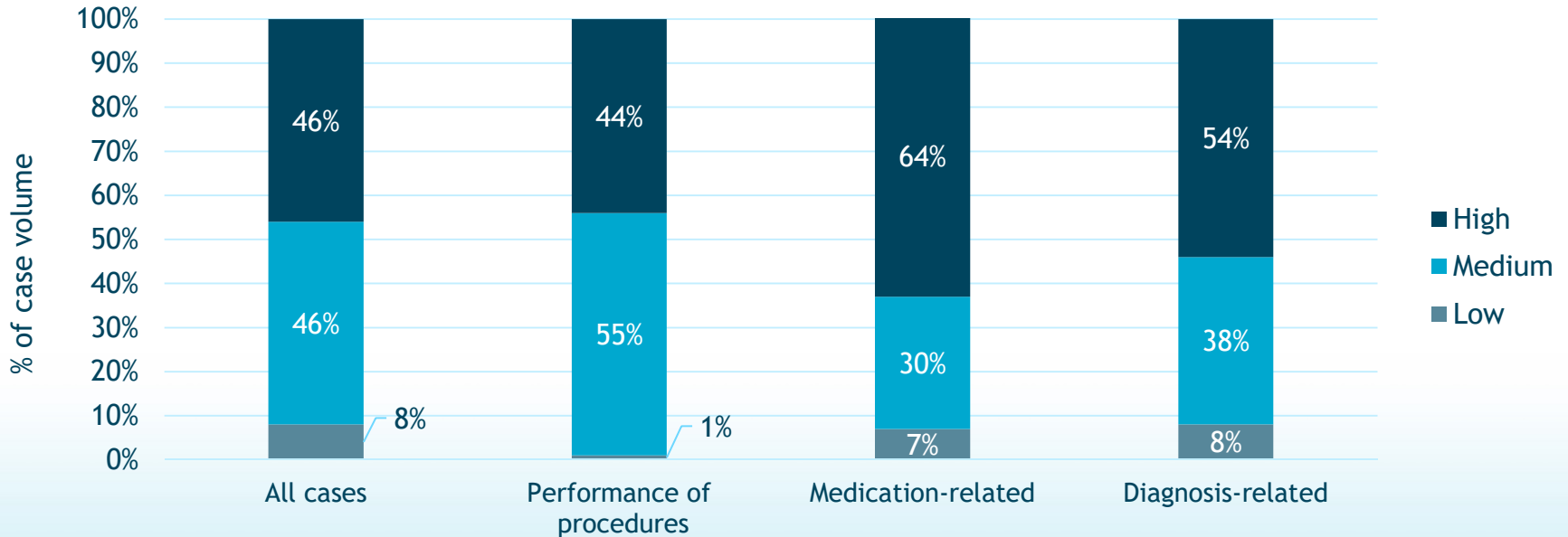


▶ Claimant type & top locations



▶ Clinical severity*

Within the high severity cases are permanent patient injuries ranging from serious to grave and patient death. Typically, the higher the clinical severity, the higher the indemnity payments & the more frequently payment occurs.



There has been a slight increase in the volume of the most severe patient outcomes over the last 10 years.

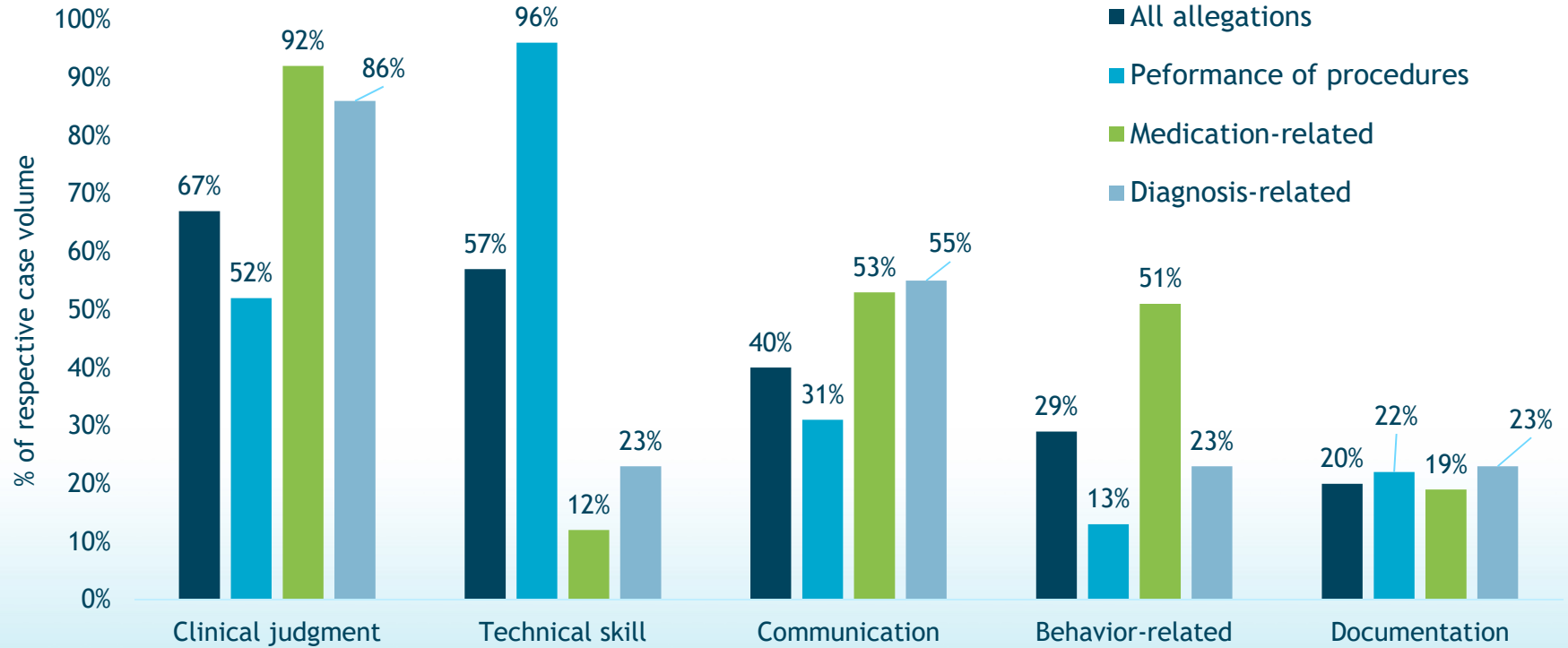
▶ Contributing factors



Contributing factors are multi-layered issues or failures in the process of care that appear to have contributed to the patient outcome and/or to the initiation of the case.

Multiple factors are identified in each case because generally, there is not just one issue that leads to these cases, but rather a combination of issues.

▶ Top contributing factor categories – by allegation





In procedural performance cases, these specific factors...

...are on average more expensive* to resolve, and among those frequently noted in cases with clinically severe patient outcomes.

Factor category	The details	How much more expensive?
Technical skill	Poor procedural technique	68%
Clinical judgment	Failure to appreciate/reconcile patient symptoms and/or test results	42%
Communication	Inadequate informed consent for procedures	10%
Documentation	Insufficient/lack of documentation regarding clinical findings	94%

▶ In summary: where to focus your efforts

- ▶ Ongoing evaluation of procedural skills and competency with equipment is critically important.
- ▶ Conduct a thorough assessment of the patient pre-procedure.
 - ▶ Ensure that all testing and specialty evaluations are available for review; in an ambulatory setting, these details might not always be as readily available as in the inpatient setting.
- ▶ Communicate with each other.
 - ▶ Actively collaborate with other members of the patient's care team. Coordinate the steps of the patient's care, including post-procedure.
 - ▶ Talk also to the patient/family, elicit a comprehensive patient history and conduct a thorough informed consent with the patient.
- ▶ Behavior-related
 - ▶ Recognize that patient satisfaction with treatment outcomes, and compliance with treatment regimens, can be influenced by a thorough informed consent and education process.
- ▶ Document.
 - ▶ The procedural record is critically important for detailing the patient assessment, and the sequence of events. Discrepancies or gaps in the details/timing make it much more difficult to build a supportive framework for defense against potential malpractice cases.

▶ MedPro advantage: online resources

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Tools &
resources

Educational
opportunities

Consulting
information

Videos

eRisk Hub
Cybersecurity Resource

Education

Materials and resources to educate followers about prevalent and emerging healthcare risks

Awareness

Information about current trends related to patient safety and risk management

Promotion

Promotion of new resources and educational opportunities

▶ A note about MedPro Group data

MedPro Group has entered into a partnership with CRICO Strategies, a division of the Risk Management Foundation of the Harvard Medical Institutions. Using CRICO's sophisticated coding taxonomy to code claims data, MedPro Group is better able to identify clinical areas of risk vulnerability. All data in this report represent a snapshot of MedPro Group's experience with specialty-specific claims, including an analysis of risk factors that drive these claims.

crico | strategies

Disclaimer

This document should not be construed as medical or legal advice. Because the facts applicable to your situation may vary, or the laws applicable in your jurisdiction may differ, please contact your attorney or other professional advisors if you have any questions related to your legal or medical obligations or rights, state or federal laws, contract interpretation, or other legal questions.

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