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TITLE: Development of Predictive Models of Injury for the Lower Extremity, Lumbar, and Thoracic Spine after discharge from Physical Rehabilitation

Annual

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: MAJ Daniel Rhon

CONTRACTING ORGANIZATION: The Geneva Foundation Tacoma, WA 98402

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#### 14. ABSTRACT

The objective and overall hypothesis is that service member performance on a battery of physical performance tests performed upon discharge from physical rehabilitation, will be able to predict 1) the risk of sustaining any injury as well as 2) the risk of reoccurrence of the same injury. A two-pronged injury prevention approach is required to optimize return to duty rates after injury: Screening for known preventable musculoskeletal risk factors and ensuring these risk factors are mitigated prior to discharge from rehabilitation. The current assumption is that a service member discharged from medical care is ready to return to full duty. Because history of prior injury is a well-established risk factor, every service member that is discharged from Physical Rehabilitation is already at a higher risk for future injury. Identifying those at increase risk of recurrence provides the ability for secondary and tertiary prevention programs to optimize return to duty rates. Hypothesis 1: Risk factors shown to be predictive of lower extremity and lumbar/thoracic spine injuries in other populations and in healthy service members will also be predictive of re-occurrence of original injury, future injury, and return to duty rates in service members being discharged from Physical Rehabilitation. Hypothesis 2: The injury prediction models will vary by age and sex. Hypothesis 3: A multi-factorial prediction model that accurately predicts risk of new and recurring injuries, as well as return to duty rates, will consist of multiple variables.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Musculoskeletal injuries have a significant deleterious effect on Soldier readiness. Screening algorithms for injury risk have been identified, but have not been evaluated in service members returning to duty after an injury. As past injury and pain with movement are strong risk factors for future injury, the ability to adequately screen service members for injury risk after they have been cleared to return to duty from an injury is of great importance. The purpose of this project is to determine if performance on a battery of functional tests after discharge from medical care, can predict risk for injury after returning to full duty following a spine or lower extremity injury.

## 2. KEYWORDS:

Injury prevention, injury prediction, injury risk, musculoskeletal, lower extremity, spine, return to duty

## 3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

## What were the major goals of the project?

Milestone 1: IRB approval and HRPO Approval (Initial Target - 6-8 months)

- STATUS – IRB approval at all sites with the primary site being approved on 26 February 2015 and the last sub-site approval on 25 February 2016

Milestone 2: Target recruitment met (Initial Target – 24 months)

- STATUS- 480 subjects enrolled (220 at WBAMC, 254 at WAMC, and 6 at BAMC). We were delayed by over a year hitting this goal.

Milestone 3: 1-year injury surveillance complete (Initial Target – 36 months)

- STATUS – Ongoing – over 150 subjects still need to complete their 1-year period of surveillance.

Milestone 4: Analysis for Primary Aims complete (42 months)

- STATUS - (not started)

## What was accomplished under these goals?

The past year focused solely on recruitment and enrollment of subjects. We expanded to capture patients with musculoskeletal injuries in both primary care and specialty care (physical therapy) settings, that were discharged to return to full duty. The delays with IRB Approval due to IRBNet going away and adoption of eIRB put us about 10-12 months behind schedule. However, we did manage to complete enrollment of all 480 subjects during this last year and are in great position now to move into the injury surveillance phase, and finally the analysis phase.

## What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?

Although our project was no intended to provide training and professional development, there have been several opportunities to do so. The MEDCOM Executive Health program implemented at BAMC utilized some of the screening components from this study, and our team provided the relevant training to healthcare providers on these injury screening procedures. MAJ Rhon and COL Teyhen are leading a session on injury prevention at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Soldier Physical Performance.

## How were the results disseminated to communities of interest?

Nothing to Report

## What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?

As we just finished enrolling all of our subjects, this next year will entail following every subject through their 1-year period of surveillance. The final subject should complete their 1-year follow-up right at the end of the next reporting period. We will focus on maximizing compliance with follow-ups.

## 4. IMPACT:

## What was the impact on the development of the principal discipline(s) of the project? Nothing to Report

What was the impact on other disciplines? Nothing to Report

## What was the impact on technology transfer?

Nothing to Report

## What was the impact on society beyond science and technology?

Nothing to Report

## 5. CHANGES/PROBLEMS:

## Changes in approach and reasons for change

As the focus was on predicting return to duty after injury, we expanded our recruitment footprint to include musculoskeletal injuries in primary care.

Actual or anticipated problems or delays and actions or plans to resolve them None

Changes that had a significant impact on expenditures None

Significant changes in use or care of human subjects, vertebrate animals, biohazards, and/or select agents

Significant changes in use or care of human subjects None

Significant changes in use or care of vertebrate animals. N/A

Significant changes in use of biohazards and/or select agents. N/A

6. PRODUCTS:

**Publications, conference papers, and presentations** None

## Journal publications.

Rhon DI, Teyhen DS, Shaffer SW, Goffar SL, Kiesel K, Plisky PP. *Developing predictive models for return to work using the Military Power, Performance and Prevention (MP3) musculoskeletal injury risk algorithm: a study protocol for an injury risk assessment programme.* Injury Prevention. 2016 Nov 24. pii: injuryprev-2016-042234. doi: 10.1136/injuryprev-2016-042234, *Acknowledgement of federal support: YES* 

**Books or other non-periodical, one-time publications.** Nothing to Report

**Other publications, conference papers, and presentations.** Nothing to Report

Website(s) or other Internet site(s) Nothing to Report

Technologies or techniques Nothing to Report

Inventions, patent applications, and/or licenses Nothing to Report

## 7. PARTICIPANTS & OTHER COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS What individuals have worked on the project?

Name:	MAJ Dan Rhon
Project Role:	Primary Investigator
Researcher Identifier (e.g. ORCID ID):	0000-0002-4320-990X
Nearest person month worked:	3
Contribution to Project:	Writing IRB protocols for all 4 sites; Coordinating training at 2 main sites. Traveled to all 4 sites for site visits, coordinate with local IRBs, and help deliver training to research team. Continued oversight of all sites.
Funding Support:	N/A
Name:	Dr. Matt Hartshorne
Project Role:	Research Physical Therapist
Researcher Identifier (e.g. ORCID ID):	N/A
Nearest person month worked:	12
Contribution to Project:	Local assistance with IRB at Womack site. Assistance with setting up and planning local training meeting. Putting together study material for local site. In charge of enrollment/recruitment at local site. Updating protocols and other IRB documents as necessary.
Funding Support:	100%
Name:	Dr. Danielle Langness
Project Role:	Research Physical Therapist
Researcher Identifier (e.g. ORCID ID):	N/A
Nearest person month worked:	12
Contribution to Project:	Local assistance with IRB at WBAMC site. Assistance with setting up and planning local training meeting. Putting together study material for local site. In charge of enrollment/recruitment at local site. Updating protocols and other IRB documents as necessary.
Funding Support:	100%
Name:	Dr. Tina Greenlee
Project Role:	Research Associate
Researcher Identifier (e.g. ORCID ID):	N/A
Nearest person month worked:	2
Contribution to Project:	Local assistance with IRB at BAMC site. Assistance with setting up and planning local training meeting. Putting together study material for local site. Help with enrollment/recruitment at local site. Updating protocols and other IRB documents as necessary.
Funding Support:	100%

Name:	Dr. Rachel Mayhew
Project Role:	Research Physical Therapist
Researcher Identifier (e.g. ORCID ID):	N/A
Nearest person month worked:	2
Contribution to Project:	Local assistance with IRB at BAMC site. Assistance with setting up and planning local training meeting. Putting together study material for local site. In charge of enrollment/recruitment at local site. Updating protocols and other IRB documents as necessary.
Funding Support:	100%
Name:	COL Deydre Teyhen
Project Role:	Associate Investigator
Researcher Identifier (e.g. ORCID ID):	N/A
Nearest person month worked:	1
Contribution to Project:	Consultation and input for planning, data collection, and follow-on steps after study.
Funding Support:	100%
Name:	COL Scott Shaffer
Project Role:	Associate Investigator
Researcher Identifier (e.g. ORCID ID):	N/A
Nearest person month worked:	1
Contribution to Project:	Consultation and input for planning, data collection, and follow-on steps after study.
Funding Support:	100%

## Has there been a change in the active other support of the PD/PI(s) or senior/key personnel since the last reporting period?

Nothing to Report

## What other organizations were involved as partners?

Organization Name: University of Evansville Location of Organization: Evansville, IN Partner's contribution to the project

In-kind support: Contributed to the study design and provide consultation throughout the study enrollment process. Dr. Phil Plisky and Dr. Kyle Kiesel have an extensive history of this line of work with professional athletes. Some of the grant funds also went to help adapt the MP3 software for data collection pertinent to this particular study.

#### SPECIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS 8.

## **COLLABORATIVE AWARDS: N/A**

## QUAD CHARTS:

9. **APPENDICES: None** 

# Development of Predictive Models of Injury for the Lower Extremity, Lumbar, and Thoracic Spine after Discharge from Physical Rehabilitation

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