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| **MD Consulting Services LLC**Physicians Helping Attorneys Helping People™[www.mdcsco.com](http://www.mdcsco.com) 303-619-0777NewsletterMarch 2024 |
| **This Month’s Question: How Do You Determine Traumatic Injury Causation?****MD Consulting Services Answer:**Establishing causation is crucial to determine whether a party is liable for harming an individual and how much compensation is owed to the injured. However, establishing causation is not always straightforward and intuitive. More often, cases are complex—the cause is not readily apparent, or the outcome can have multiple contributing causes. A recent review article by March 2020 Meilia et al. discussed the literature on the existing methods of causal analysis. Notable methods of causal analysis include: * The 2013 guide on disease and injury causation released by the AMA
* The Forcier-Lacerte medicolegal causal analysis model
* The epidemiology-based approach by Siegerink et al.
* The 3-step medicolegal causation approach by Freeman
* The INFERENCE approach introduced by Nov 2020 Meilia et al.

It is important to use the appropriate approach to causation when evaluating different types of cases with varying degrees of complexity. That being said, a 2016 legal decision from the 10th Circuit US Court of Appeals endorsed the 3-step causal methodology as the generally accepted approach for injury causation. The decision was based on the 2009 Freeman et al. publication that described the application of the methodology to the analysis of spinal disk injury following a traffic crash. |
| **Q: What are the criteria for the 3-step medicolegal causal methodology when assessing causation?*** There must be a biologically plausible or possible link between the exposure and the outcome.
* There must be a temporal relationship between the exposure and the outcome.
* There must not be a more likely or probable alternative explanation for the symptoms.
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| **Reply with a good time to talk about one of your cases, and Dr. Feldman get back to you as soon as possible.** If you found the newsletter info helpful please reply back: YES!CONTACT US for information or fee schedule.[**www.mdcsco.com**](http://www.mdcsco.com) **303-619-0777** |
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