

What is an external incentive?

Note:- External incentives are present in all assessments if disability payments exist

- Note that “compensation-related” does not necessarily mean that the purpose of the assessment was to determine eligibility for disability payments.
- It means that all cases **were receiving disability payments from any source** (or making a claim for such benefits) irrespective of the referral source for the current assessment.
- In cases with disability pay, the incentive to exaggerate symptoms is present in all assessments, irrespective of whether they are classified as “clinical” (e.g. referred by family doctor) and even if there is no immediate intention to send the results to the insurance company.
- The reason is that insurance companies and WCB may (and often do) call for assessments done in settings which may be regarded as clinical.
- Hence, all “clinical” assessments of people with existing disability payments do entail the presence of external incentives to exaggerate symptoms.
- This is true no matter where the assessment is performed, by whom and to whom results are reported.