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Claims for Compensation Under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act

Comment On: WCPO-2015-0003-0001

Claims for Compensation Under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act

Document: WCPO-2015-0003-0029

Comment from C Craig, NA

Submitter Information

Name: C. Craig

Address:

10624 S. Eastern Ave

Suite A-244

Henderson, NV, 89012

Organization: NA

General Comment

Based on what I have read of the proposed changes it looks like it will be almost impossible in the future for a claimant to change their doctor, even if the doctor does not want to work with an already demanding program and refuses to accept EEOICPA as a payer because the demand on the physicians time just went off the chart. Then what does a claimant do?

DOL really should not be in charge of who the doctor can and can't be for the claimants. The claimant doesn't choose the doctor for the claims examiners but they did give their health and taxes to protect them many years ago! Further, the changes reference documentation that will be used but does not supply the documents for review. This is not balanced or ethically compliant.

The burden of proof being placed on potential claimants is beyond necessary and is going to exempt many individuals who are more than worthy of benefiting from the program on account of their illnesses that occurred because of what they were obligated to do in the work place.

Much of the language not only makes the program tough to manage for the claimants but for the

providers it has the potential to increase the paperwork and continual renewal of medical services by three times (3X). Why would the DOL want to drive away the entire private sector from working with this program?

This is not consistent with Rachel P. Leiton's letter dated November 18th. Further you can't expect any of the claimants who actually utilize this program to comment here. They don't know how. The average age is probably over 70 years, they do not use the internet and don't have the education or background to understand the language. This public comment process is useless. It's no coincidence that the DOL team for EEOICPA and Rachel P. Linton are trying to get this done in a hurry with very little input from any real claimants. Right now it's easy and they don't want to wait for the new Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health needs to begin and take the time to review the changes.

The proposed changes don't even give a reason for what they are suggesting. You have to try and divine what the author was thinking and why. I vote for a no on RIN 1240-AA08 until a real study and be performed that will truly examine what the DOL is trying to accomplish, why and how that makes anything better for the current and future claimants.