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

Comment On: WCPO-2015-0003-0177

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

Document: WCPO-2015-0003-0312

Comment from Gregory Phelps, MD

Submitter Information

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Organization: The University of Tennessee Medical Center, Hospice Services

General Comment

See Attached

Attachments

Comment from Gregory Phelps

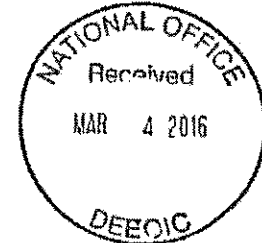
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HOSPICE SERVICES

It's All About Helping People.

January 11, 2016

Rachel Leiton
Director, DEEOIC
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20120



Re: Claims for compensation under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (RIN 1240-AA08)

Dear Ms. Leiton,

This letter is regarding proposed changes to Section 403(c), and the consequences this would have on me and my patients.

I am a hospice provider, and my entire patient population is considered terminal with less than six months life expectancy. Many of my patients are former nuclear workers who are dying from illnesses acquired in the workplace, and they have medical benefits through the EEOICPA. Their home health needs often arise suddenly and increase rapidly as they approach end of life. It is pertinent that they begin care as quickly as possible (usually within 24 hours) and maintain uninterrupted care until they pass. They certainly do not have days or weeks to wait on a paperwork trail to clear. The proposed changes and subsequent increased paperwork would undoubtedly create detrimental delays for my patients and unnecessary loss of time for me as well. Many of my patients live alone with no one to assist them in their final days, and most are bedbound with significant pain issues that simply must be managed by skilled nurses. It is reckless and irresponsible to leave these patients in limbo while waiting on an unnecessary back and forth of paperwork between the Department of Labor and myself when they are dying and need care *now*.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed changes to Section 403(c) for the sake of my patients and so many others like them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Gregory Phelps, M.D.





THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
MEDICAL CENTER

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