

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 3/14/16 10:33 AM
Received: February 17, 2016
Status: Posted
Posted: February 17, 2016
Tracking No. 1k0-8o0f-vcst
Comments Due: February 18, 2016
Submission Type: Web

Docket: WCPO-2015-0003

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-2015-0003-0208

Comment from J. Christopher Ballard, AppletonClinics

Submitter Information

Name: J. Christopher Ballard

Address:

607 25 Road, Suite 100

Grand Junction, CO, 81505

Phone: 970-242-1566

Organization: AppletonClinics

General Comment

Attached is AppletonClinics' comment letter on RIN 1240-AA08.

Attachments

Gustafson ltr2DOL_01-14-2016



AppletonClinics™
Unlimited Primary Care*, One Low Monthly Fee.

January 14, 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:

I understand that changes are being proposed to the rules related to the EEOICPA. I am specifically concerned about changes to Section 403(c) of these rules which I am concerned may create additional burden and delay for my patients to receive appropriate home health care.

I have now been delivering care to EEOICP patients for the last 5 years. I am one of a very few physicians in my area of Western Colorado who is willing to see these medically complex patients and fill out extensive amounts of documentation to help them keep their benefits. I have a very real concern that making the process even more onerous may result in even fewer physicians being willing to provide these medical evaluations for appropriate home health care. The fewer physicians who are willing to provide these evaluations, the more challenging the demands on these elderly, frail patients. I currently provide medical care for about 20 EEOICP patients, and they travel from Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Colorado, and even Oklahoma to see me.

My patients who have benefits under the EEOICPA Program are in need of the appropriate home health care that I am prescribing in a timely fashion. Putting up barriers to receiving medically necessary care risks compromising the health of my patients. I do not want to see any changes to the EEOICPA which could delay the health care of my patients.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance regarding this very important issue. I would invite the opportunity to speak to you about it personally if that would be helpful in your decision making process.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Gustafson, M.D.
970-822-2027