

By decision dated August 3, 2011, the Board set aside the hearing representative's October 20, 2010 decision. The Board noted, *inter alia*, that Table 16-12, A.M.A., *Guides* 534-36 (6th ed. 2008) was not the preferred method adopted by OWCP for rating spinal nerve extremity impairment.⁴ Accordingly, the case was remanded for further development.⁵

OWCP issued another schedule award decision on May 3, 2012. The latest decision also found four percent impairment of the left lower extremity and zero percent impairment of the right lower extremity. Once again, the DMA incorrectly relied on Table 16-12, A.M.A., *Guides* 534-36 (6th ed. 2008) as a basis for determining appellant's lower extremity impairment. As noted in our prior decision, the sixth edition of the A.M.A., *Guides* (2008) provides a specific methodology for rating spinal nerve extremity impairment. It was designed for situations where a particular jurisdiction mandated ratings for extremities and precluded ratings for the spine. The appropriate tables for rating spinal nerve extremity impairment can be found in the FECA Procedure Manual, which follows the guidelines set forth in the July/August 2009 edition of the *The Guides Newsletter*, "Rating Spinal Nerve Extremity Impairment Using the Sixth Edition."⁶ Because the DMA did not apply the appropriate rating method, the case will be remanded for further development.⁷ After OWCP has developed the case record to the extent it deems necessary, a *de novo* decision shall be issued regarding entitlement to a schedule award.

⁴ See Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 3 -- Medical, *Schedule Awards*, Chapter 3.700, Exhibit 4 (January 2010).

⁵ The Board's August 3, 2011 decision is incorporated herein by reference.

⁶ See *supra* note 4.

⁷ Once OWCP undertakes development of the record it must do a complete job in procuring medical evidence that will resolve the relevant issues in the case. *Richard F. Williams*, 55 ECAB 343, 346 (2004).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT May 3, 2012 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is set aside. The case is remanded for further action consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: November 26, 2012
Washington, DC

Richard J. Daschbach, Chief Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Patricia Howard Fitzgerald, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board