

Initial Acceptance



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- When the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) has determined that there is sufficient factual and medical evidence to accept the claim, a formal decision is issued which explains which conditions were accepted as arising out of the claimed factors.
- Where medical evidence establishes that a pre-existing condition was aggravated, an aggravation should be accepted, not the underlying condition itself.



Initial Acceptance – Special Circumstances

- Subluxation of the spine can be accepted only if x-ray results showing the subluxation are available. A chiropractor's interpretation of the x-ray is acceptable.
- Asbestosis can be accepted only with full range of findings as required by Chapter 3-600 in the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) Procedure Manual.



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- Whether the claim is a Traumatic Injury or an Occupational Disease, the same criteria need to be established.
- In Traumatic Injury cases with resulting disability, continuation of pay (COP) should be authorized unless one of the nine reasons to controvert COP have been established.
- In either type of case, with resulting disability, the claimant should be notified of placement into disability management (QCM) and the purpose of the QCM program.

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Additional Conditions:

- If either the physician or claimant indicate that the accepted conditions require expansion or modification, OWCP should request a detailed explanation as to how the additional conditions are related to the original injury or resulting residuals.
- Claims for consequential conditions should be referred to the District Medical Advisor for review.



Questions

If medical evidence establishes that a pre-existing condition was aggravated, OWCP will accept:

- a) The aggravation of the condition
- b) The pre-existing condition
- c) Both the pre-existing condition and the aggravation

Questions

The same 5 basic criteria need to be met when accepting either a Traumatic Injury or Occupational Disease.

- a) True
- b) False

Take Away Tips

- 1) When OWCP has determined that there is sufficient factual and medical evidence to accept the claim, a formal decision is issued which explains which conditions were accepted as arising out of the claimed factors.
- 2) Subluxation of the spine can be accepted only if x-ray results showing the subluxation are available. A chiropractor's interpretation of the x-ray is acceptable.
- 3) In Traumatic Injury cases with resulting disability, continuation of pay (COP) should be authorized unless one of the nine reasons to controvert COP have been established.
- 4) If either the physician or claimant indicate that the accepted conditions require expansion or modification, OWCP will request a detailed explanation as to how the additional conditions are related to the original injury or resulting residuals.