



BULLETIN NO. 22-02

Issue Date: July 8, 2022

Effective Date: August 4, 2022

Expiration Date: February 4, 2023

Subject: Extending Expiration Date of Bulletin 21-04: COVID-19 as a Consequential Illness.

Background: The Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation (DEEOIC), in collaboration with the Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health (ABTSWH or Board), has issued guidance pertaining to the presumption of COVID-19 as a consequential illness. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has compiled a list of underlying medical conditions that increase a person's risk of severe illness from COVID-19, supported by meta-analysis, systematic review, cohort studies, case control studies, cross sectional studies, case or cases/series reports, or mixed evidence. DEEOIC accepts that COVID-19 is a consequence of any chronic health condition or risk factor that is identified by the CDC as being associated with severe COVID-19 disease when it follows or coincides with the onset of those conditions.

References: Federal (EEOICPA) Procedure Manual (v6.0).

Purpose: To extend the expiration date of Bulletin 21-04, which provides presumptive guidance to DEEOIC claims staff regarding COVID-19 as a consequential illness.

Applicability: All staff.

Actions:

1. Upon receiving a claim for COVID-19, DEEOIC claims staff are to verify that the claimant has a previously accepted primary occupational illness that reasonably correlates to any disease the CDC has determined to be associated with severe COVID-19. The underlying medical conditions that increase a person's risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are listed on the CDC website and will be provided internally to DEEOIC staff.
2. Once DEEOIC claims staff verify that the claimant has a previously accepted primary occupational illness that reasonably correlates to one of the underlying medical conditions identified by the CDC as increasing the risk of severe COVID-19, COVID-19 is presumed to be

a consequence of that primary condition. As such, COVID-19 may be accepted as consequential to that primary occupational illness under Part E.

3. If the claimant has not previously had an accepted primary occupational illness that correlates with the conditions identified by the CDC as increasing the risk of severe COVID-19, no presumption may be made. Accordingly, the claim will require a well-rationalized and supported medical opinion from the claimant's physician or is to be referred to a CMC for an opinion on the likelihood that COVID-19 is a consequence of the claimant's previously accepted primary illness.

Disposition: Retain until incorporated in the Federal (EEOICPA) Procedure Manual.

RACHEL D. POND
Director, Division of Energy Employees
Occupational Illness Compensation