

find that the evidence of record was sufficient to establish that the employment events occurred as alleged, but denied the claim, finding that appellant had not established a medical condition causally related to the accepted factors of her federal employment.

The Board has duly considered the matter and concludes that this case is not in posture for decision. OWCP's procedures provide that cases should be administratively combined when correct adjudication of the issue(s) depends on frequent cross-referencing between files.² For example, if a new injury is reported for an employee who previously filed a claim for a similar condition or the same part of the body, doubling is required.³ Appellant has several other claims involving injuries to her left shoulder.⁴ At the time of the June 24, 2019 decision on appeal, those claims had not been administratively combined with the present claim. By order dated August 4, 2020, under OWCP File No. xxxxxx948, the Board directed OWCP to administratively combine OWCP File Nos. xxxxxx948, xxxxxx550, xxxxxx521, and xxxxxx299.⁵ On remand OWCP administratively combined the above-noted left shoulder claim files, with File No. xxxxxx550 serving as the master file. Therefore, for full and fair adjudication of the present claim, the case must be returned to OWCP to review the medical evidence in all of appellant's combined claim files. Following this and such further development as it deems necessary, it shall issue a *de novo* decision.

² Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *File Maintenance and Management*, Chapter 2.400.8(c) (February 2000); *R.S.*, Docket No. 19-0416 (issued November 26, 2019).

³ *Id.*; *E.P.*, Docket No. 18-1333 (issued March 22, 2019); *K.T.*, Docket No. 17-0432 (issued August 17, 2018).

⁴ Under OWCP File No. xxxxxx948 appellant filed an occupational disease claim on February 11, 2019 alleging that she aggravated a 2015 left injury and developed bursitis of the left shoulder due to factors of federal employment. Under OWCP File No. xxxxxx550 she filed a claim for a May 7, 2013 traumatic injury to her left shoulder when her vehicle door jammed as she was closing it. Under OWCP File No. xxxxxx299 appellant filed a claim for a May 19, 2016 traumatic injury to her left shoulder when loading boxes from the loading dock onto her work vehicle.

⁵ Docket No. 20-0354 (issued August 4, 2020).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the June 24, 2019 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is set aside and the case is remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: March 17, 2021
Washington, DC

Alec J. Koromilas, Chief Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Janice B. Askin, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Patricia H. Fitzgerald, Alternate Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board