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A.H., Appellant	)	
	)	
and	)	Docket No. 26-0278
	)	Issued: June 22, 2026
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, POST OFFICE,	)	
Detroit, MI, Employer	)	
	)	

Case Submitted on the Record

Before:
ALEC J. KOROMILAS, Chief Judge
PATRICIA H. FITZGERALD, Deputy Chief Judge
JANICE B. ASKIN, Judge

On September 13, 2024 appellant, then a 46-year-old city carrier, filed a traumatic injury claim (Form CA-1) alleging that on September 3, 2024 she sustained pain in her right arm and shoulder when she fell inside her mail truck cabin while in the performance of duty.² She stopped work on September 4, 2024. OWCP accepted the claim for right shoulder sprain, right

² OWCP assigned the present claim OWCP File No. xxxxxx063. Appellant has a subsequent claim for a November 25, 2024 traumatic injury under OWCP File No. xxxxxx464 in which she asserted that she reinjured her right shoulder, (while exceeding her work restrictions. Appellant's claims had not been administratively combined by OWCP at the time of the October 17, 2025 decision.

elbow contusion, right rotator cuff tear, and right elbow lateral epicondylitis. It paid appellant wage-loss compensation on the supplemental rolls commencing October 19, 2024.

Beginning on December 4, 2024 appellant filed a series of claims for compensation (Form CA-7) for disability from work commencing November 27, 2024.

By decision dated July 31, 2025, OWCP denied appellant's claim for disability during the period commencing November 24, 2025. By memorandum dated July 31, 2025, it determined that the July 31, 2025 decision should be rescinded as it had not undertaken the necessary development prior to denying the claimed period of disability.

In an August 13, 2025 development letter, OWCP notified appellant of the deficiencies of her disability claim and advised her of the type of evidence needed for the claimed dates of disability. It afforded her 30 days to respond.

On October 17, 2025 OWCP advised appellant that the July 31, 2025 decision had been vacated.

By decision dated October 17, 2025, OWCP denied appellant's Form CA-7 claim for disability from work commencing November 24, 2024.

The Board, having duly considered this matter, finds that the case is not in posture for decision.

OWCP's procedures provide that cases should be administratively combined where a new injury case is reported for an employee who filed another injury claim for the same part of the body and when correct adjudication of the issues depends on frequent cross-referencing between files.³ For example, if a new injury case is reported for an employee who previously filed an injury claim for a similar condition or the same part of the body, doubling is required.⁴ Appellant's claims under OWCP File Nos. xxxxxx063 and xxxxxx464 both involve the right upper extremity. Therefore, these claims must be administratively combined for full and fair adjudication.⁵

The case shall, therefore, be remanded to OWCP for further development. On remand, OWCP shall administratively combine OWCP File Nos. xxxxxx063 and xxxxxx464. Following this and other such further development as deemed necessary, OWCP shall issue a *de novo* decision. Accordingly,

³ Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *File Maintenance and Management*, Chapter 2.400.8(c) (February 2000).

⁴ *Id.*; *Order Remanding Case, G.D.*, Docket No. 25-0085 (issued November 18, 2024); *Order Remanding Case, N.V.*, Docket No. 23-0044 (issued April 20, 2023); *Order Remanding Case, L.G.*, Docket No. 18-1676 (issued August 22, 2019); *Order Remanding Case, D.L.*, Docket No. 17-1588 (issued January 28, 2019).

⁵ *See Order Remanding Case, J.S.*, Docket No. 26-0225 (issued April 30, 2026); *Order Remanding Case, C.Y.*, Docket No. 20-1079 (issued December 7, 2020); *L.G., id.*; *Order Remanding Case, K.T.*, Docket No. 17-0432 (issued August 17, 2018).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the October 17, 2025 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: June 22, 2026
Washington, DC

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

Patricia H. Fitzgerald, Deputy Chief Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Janice B. Askin, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board