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1. Purpose and Scope. Part 3 of the BLBA PM covers the development, promulgation, and monitoring of standards for the medical treatment of disabled miners; guidelines for providing and maintaining the quality of diagnostic evidence submitted in claims for benefits; procedures for maintaining a list of physicians and facilities approved to perform diagnostic services for the DCMWC; the instructions and procedures for adjudicating Certificates of Medical Necessity (CMNs); and the enrollment of medical consultants to provide services to DCMWC.

2. Authority for the promulgation and monitoring of medical standards, treatment, and practices is contained in the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (the Act), as amended, and in the Regulations of the Department of Labor. (20 CFR 718 and 725.)

3. Functions and Responsibilities. The Branch of Standards, Regulations and Procedures has primary responsibility for setting forth policies and procedures regarding determination testing, maintenance of the list of approved diagnostic physicians, Certificates of Medical Necessity, coordinating referrals to medical consultants when appropriate, the oversight of medical treatment procedures, and advising the Director on medical cost issues. The Medical Audit and Operations Section is responsible for the coordination of DCMWC procedures with OWCP and the bill payment contractor.

4. Content of BLBA PM Part 3. Medical standards, services and criteria of the DCMWC are described in Chapter 3-200; procedures for maintaining the list of approved diagnostic providers are contained in Chapter 3-201; and determination medical bill processing is covered in Chapter 3-300. (Procedures for authorizing medical tests are contained in the claims section of the Procedure Manual, Chapter 2-500.) The administration of the medical treatment program is covered in Chapter 3-500. Procedures for authorizing rental and purchase of oxygen delivery systems and other durable medical equipment, pulmonary rehabilitation services, and home nursing services are covered in Chapters 3-600 through 3-605. PM 3-700 is reserved for a description of consultant services available to National Office (NO) and District Office (DO) components of DCMWC. Chapter 3-800 covers medical benefits disputed by either the operator or the miner.