

U.S. Department of Labor

Office of Workers' Compensation Programs
Division of Energy Employees Occupational
Illness Compensation
Washington, DC 20210



Date: February 26, 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR: RACHEL P. LEITON
Director
Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs

THROUGH: JOHN VANCE
Chief, Branch of Policy
Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs

FROM: CHRISTOPHER R. ARMSTRONG, MD, MPH, FACPM, FAsMA 
Medical Director
Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs

SUBJECT: Audit of Third Quarter (CY 2017) Contract Medical Consultant
(CMC) Reports

I conducted an audit of contract medical consultant (CMC) reports completed during the third quarter of Calendar Year 2017 to ensure that appropriate medical specialists are being assigned to advise the Government, and that the reports we receive are well-reasoned, complete, and responsive to the needs of our claims examiners. My audit included a review of 49 randomly selected CMC reports for three distinct services: causation file reviews, impairment ratings, and supplemental file reviews. I used a checklist to assess the reports for adherence to contract requirements and program policies promulgated in the *Procedure Manual* and the *Medical Consultant Handbook*. The audit included 21 causation file reviews, 20 impairment ratings, and 8 supplemental file reviews (clarification of diagnosis, treatment, or test results).

Four of the 49 reports clearly exceeded expectations, 37 met expectations, and eight need improvement. The reports by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were thorough, well reasoned, informative, and helpful. [REDACTED] prepared five of the eight reports that need improvement.

Seven of the reports that need improvement were not consistent with the evidence in the file. Four of the reports demonstrated inappropriate use of the tables in *AMA Guides™ to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, Fifth Edition*. Several of the reports demonstrated more

than one deficiency. Each of the eight reports may have resulted in an inappropriate impairment rating.

Follow-Up Action Plan

QTC is preparing a remediation program for [REDACTED], which will be forwarded to us for approval. In the meantime, he has been suspended. In addition, Dionne Perry, the Contracting Officer's Representative, will notify QTC of the reports assessed as exceeding expectations and the deficiencies in the reports assessed as needing improvement. QTC will be given the opportunity to respond, in writing, to each deficiency.