

# **Occupational Pneumoconiosis Board**



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**2008 – 2009**

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**Annual Report**

# **Occupational Pneumoconiosis Board**

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## **Members**

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**Jack L. Kinder, M.D.**  
Internal Medicine  
Chairman

**Bradley Henry, M.D.**  
Internal Medicine

**Thomas M. Hayes, M.D.**  
Radiologist – B Reader

**Mahendra M. Patel, M.D.**  
Internal / Pulmonary Medicine

**Johnsey Lee Leef, Jr., M.D.**  
Radiologist – B Reader

# Occupational Pneumoconiosis Board

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## Overview

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The Occupational Pneumoconiosis Board schedules examinations for all persons filing occupational pneumoconiosis claims with the Insurance Commission. The Board makes impairment determinations based on available claim related medical evidence.

The Board obtains a complete medical history of the claimant, including any treatment for heart and lung disorders and other conditions that restrict the persons' activity. The medical history includes current and past tobacco use and to what extent. Clinical members of the Board conduct a physical examination of the claimant, giving special attention to heart and lungs, as well as any disabling injuries. Under close supervision, claimants able to exercise safely, perform a simple, standardized exercise test.

Chest X-rays are made under the supervision of the radiologist members of the Board, following film quality and technical standards established by the *Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969* to detect even minute changes possibly due to pneumoconiosis.

Board members are thoroughly familiar with identifiable diagnostic changes shown by X-rays of the claimant for evidence of changes occurring over time.

The Occupational Lung Center at Charleston Area Medical Center performs pulmonary diagnostic testing for the Board and reports on loss of lung function and to the extent to which lost lung function impairs the claimant's ability to work.

## The 2008 / 2009 Occupational Pneumoconiosis Board Annual Report

<b>Activity</b>	<b>July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008</b>	<b>July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009</b>
Total Number of Claimants Examined	700	602
First Time Claimants	273 (39%)	155 (26%)
First Time Claimants Receiving No Diagnosis	175 (64%)	94 (61%)
First Time Claimants Receiving Initial Award	98 (36%)	61 (39%)
Total Number of Cancels / No Shows	150	110
First Time Claimants Receiving OP/O (no award)	24	8
Repeat Claimants Receiving OP/O (first time-no award)	9	6
Total Claimants Receiving OP/O	33	14
Claimants Receiving Repeat Examination	427 (61%)	447 (74%)
Repeat Exam of Claimants Receiving No Additional Award	356 (83%)	335 (75%)
Repeat Exam of Claimants Receiving Additional Award	71 (17%)	112 (25%)
Total Number of Fatal Claims Reviewed	91	124
Fatal Claims Due to Occupational Pneumoconiosis	18 (20%)	30 (24%)
Fatal Claims Not Due to Occupational Pneumoconiosis	73 (80%)	94 (76%)
Out of Town Reviews Examined	5	2
Out of Town Reviews Receiving No Diagnosis	4 (80%)	1 (50%)
Out of Town Reviews Receiving an Award	1 (20%)	1 (50%)

Physicians at the Occupational Lung Center in Charleston, West Virginia examined 602 occupational pneumoconiosis claimants during the reporting period. An additional 124 fatal claims and 2 off-site or remote claims were reviewed.



Jack L. Kinder, M.D.  
Chairman