

Occupational Pneumoconiosis Board



2013 – 2014

Annual Report

Occupational Pneumoconiosis Board

Members

Jack L. Kinder, M.D.

Internal Medicine

Chairman

Bradley Henry, M.D.

Internal Medicine

Mahendra M. Patel, M.D.

Internal / Pulmonary Medicine

Johnsey Lee Leef, Jr., M.D.

Radiologist – B Reader

John A. Willis, M.D.

Radiologist – B Reader

Occupational Pneumoconiosis Board

Overview

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 2013 / 2014 Occupational Pneumoconiosis Board Annual Report

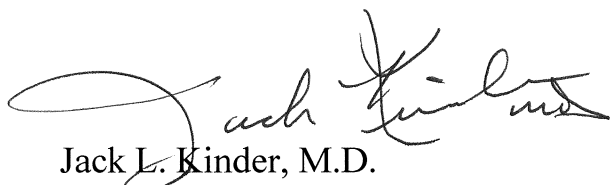
Activity	July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013	July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014
Total Number of Claimants Examined	476	518
First Time Claimants	177 (37%)	201 (39%)
First Time Claimants Receiving No Diagnosis	100 (56%)	119 (59%)
First Time Claimants Receiving Initial Award	77 (44%)	82 (41%)
Total Number of Cancels / No Shows	82	97
First Time Claimants Receiving OP/O (no award)	12	9
Repeat Claimants Receiving OP/O (first time-no award)	5	4
Total Claimants Receiving OP/O	17	13
Claimants Receiving Repeat Examination	299 (63%)	317 (61%)
Repeat Exam of Claimants Receiving No Additional Award	204 (68%)	189 (60%)
Repeat Exam of Claimants Receiving Additional Award	95 (32%)	128 (40%)
Total Number of Fatal Claims Reviewed	101	101
Fatal Claims Due to Occupational Pneumoconiosis	29 (29%)	31 (31%)
Fatal Claims Not Due to Occupational Pneumoconiosis	72 (71%)	70 (69%)
Out of Town Reviews Examined	5	10
Out of Town Reviews Receiving No Diagnosis	5	7
Out of Town Reviews Receiving an Award	0	3

Physicians at the Occupational Lung Center in Charleston, West Virginia examined 518 occupational pneumoconiosis claimants during the reporting period. An additional 101 fatal claims and 10 out of town reviews.

Two FRAGA files were reviewed at the request of the Insurance Commissioner.

There has been continued correspondence with Lee Petsonk, M.D. and the OIC regarding PMF cases throughout the report period. Sixteen new cases of PMF were seen during the report period.

An update of the ongoing PMF study was presented to the Insurance Commissioner.



Jack L. Kinder, M.D.
Chairman