

# **Occupational Pneumoconiosis Board**



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**2012 – 2013**

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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

**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

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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 2012 / 2013 Occupational Pneumoconiosis Board Annual Report

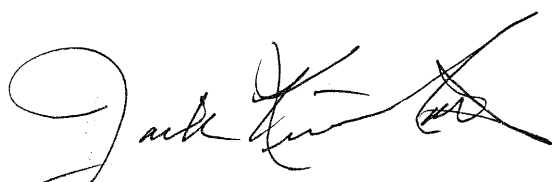
| Activity                                               | July 1, 2011 to<br>June 30, 2012 | July 1, 2012 to<br>June 30, 2013 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Total Number of Claimants Examined                     | 496                              | 476                              |
| First Time Claimants                                   | 184 (37%)                        | 177 (37%)                        |
| First Time Claimants Receiving No Diagnosis            | 112 (61%)                        | 100 (56%)                        |
| First Time Claimants Receiving Initial Award           | 72 (39%)                         | 77 (44%)                         |
| Total Number of Cancels / No Shows                     | 90                               | 82                               |
| First Time Claimants Receiving OP/O (no award)         | 13                               | 12                               |
| Repeat Claimants Receiving OP/O (first time-no award)  | 11                               | 5                                |
| Total Claimants Receiving OP/O                         | 24                               | 17                               |
| Claimants Receiving Repeat Examination                 | 312 (63%)                        | 299 (63%)                        |
| Repeat Exam of Claimants Receiving No Additional Award | 233 (75%)                        | 204 (68%)                        |
| Repeat Exam of Claimants Receiving Additional Award    | 79 (25%)                         | 95 (32%)                         |
| Total Number of Fatal Claims Reviewed                  | 113                              | 101                              |
| Fatal Claims Due to Occupational Pneumoconiosis        | 13 (12%)                         | 29 (29%)                         |
| Fatal Claims Not Due to Occupational Pneumoconiosis    | 100 (88%)                        | 72 (71%)                         |
| Out of Town Reviews Examined                           | 2                                | 5                                |
| Out of Town Reviews Receiving No Diagnosis             | 2                                | 5                                |
| Out of Town Reviews Receiving an Award                 | 0                                | 0                                |

Physicians at the Occupational Lung Center in Charleston, West Virginia examined 476 occupational pneumoconiosis claimants during the reporting period. An additional 101 fatal claims and 5 out of town reviews.

One FRAGA file was 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