

APPENDIX B: AGENCY'S RESPONSE TO THE REPORT

U.S. Department of Labor

Office of Workers' Compensation Programs
Washington, DC 20210



MEMORANDUM FOR: Carolyn R. Hantz
Assistant Inspector General

FROM: Christopher J. Godfrey *C. J. Godfrey* 9/3/2021
Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs

SUBJECT: Office of Workers Compensation Programs' Response to the Office of The Inspector General's Audit of Improper Payments of Home Health Care Costs in the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) has received the Office of Inspector General (OIG) Draft Report No. 03-21-001-04-437, "DEEOIC Could Do More to Prevent Improper Payments of Home Health Care Costs" for review and response addressing the recommendations.

This Draft Report makes a total of three new recommendations, which are outlined below along with our responses:

1. **Recommendation:** Develop a data tracking and analysis system to track and analyze trends and causes of improper payments for home health care.

Management Response: OWCP agrees with this recommendation and has developed and implemented a data tracking system via SharePoint that is used to assist the program integrity analysts with analyzing and identifying trends and causes of improper payments.

2. **Recommendation:** Finalize the (PIU) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and train staff on procedures.

Management Response: OWCP agrees with this recommendation and has begun to finalize and implement SOPs, as well as train staff on new procedures. OWCP will formally finalize all PIU SOPs by March 31, 2022.

3. **Recommendation:** Work with OWCP on exploring solutions to improve death matches, such as supplementing the Treasury death file with other data sources.

Management Response: OWCP agrees with this recommendation and has explored solutions to improve death matches. Currently, OWCP has supplemented the Treasury death file by creating an alert flag in the Risk Assessment Data Repository (RADR) to identify billings that have occurred after claimants' date of death. This data is analyzed by PIU during the monthly audit reviews as a potential risk factor for non-compliance with Federal Government billing requirements.