

By decision dated June 28, 2024, OWCP denied the claim, finding that the medical evidence was insufficient to establish causal relationship between his diagnosed medical condition(s) and the accepted employment incident.²

The Board has duly considered this matter and finds that the case is not in posture for decision.

OWCP's procedures provide that cases should be administratively combined when correct adjudication of the issues depends on frequent cross-referencing between files.³ For example, if a new injury claim is reported for an employee who previously filed an injury claim for a similar condition of the same part of the body, doubling is required.⁴

Herein, appellant has two prior claims that were accepted for right arm conditions. Appellant alleges in the present claim that, as a result of medical restrictions regarding the use of his right arm, he could only use his left arm when he was injured on February 14, 2024.

Therefore, for full and fair adjudication, the case shall be remanded to OWCP to administratively combine OWCP File Nos. xxxxxx526, xxxxxx585, and xxxxxx099.⁵ This will allow OWCP to consider all relevant reports and accompanying evidence in developing the current claim.⁶

The Board will therefore remand the case to OWCP to combine the files. Following this and such further development as it deems necessary, OWCP shall issue a *de novo* decision. Accordingly,

² OWCP initially denied the claim on April 26, 2024. Following several requests for reconsideration, by decisions dated May 23, June 11, June 18, June 21, and June 28, 2024, OWCP denied modification.

³ Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *File Maintenance and Management*, Chapter 2.400.8c (February 2000).

⁴ *Id.*; *Order Remanding Case, H.B.*, Docket No. 20-1298 (issued November 22, 2021); *Order Remanding Case, S.G.*, Docket No. 21-0396 (issued September 27, 2021).

⁵ *Order Remanding Case, K.W.*, Docket No. 22-1258 (issued March 14, 2023); *Order Remanding Case, L.M.*, Docket No. 19-1490 (issued January 29, 2020)

⁶ *Id.*

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the June 28, 2024 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is set aside and the case is remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: September 11, 2024
Washington, DC

Patricia H. Fitzgerald, Deputy Chief Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Janice B. Askin, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Valerie D. Evans-Harrell, Alternate Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board