

**From:** Donna Hand

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 8:15 PM

**To:** DOL Energy Advisory Board Information; Acosta, Alexander - OSEC; dol.solicitor@dol.gov; Bill.Campbell@usdoj.gov; info@mail.whitehouse.gov; Reff, Alisa - OIG

**Subject:** unauthorized opinions violate law and waste funds

The DEEOIC has nurses as the expert opinion on medical issues. The federal regulations allow the Secretary of Labor to use physicians (expert opinions) if the physician has been treating, researching, or educated in the medical issue such as a pulmonary specialist for lung diseases. The DEEOIC refuses to allow the claimant's nurse practitioner to write the medical rationale for compensation. HOWEVER, the DEEOIC has granted this authority to the district nurses. The nurses, specifically Nicholas Brereton, is questioning the treating physicians and other expert opinions. This is a violation of the weight of evidence, and law. For the DEEOIC to omit the material fact that the nurse consultants are being used to deny the prescribed and diagnosed conditions of the claimants is fraud, and civil and criminal action should be brought against whoever authorized this procedure. Due process is being denied because the claimants never see the statement to the nurse to review nor the letter to the treating physicians.

Nurse Consultant - Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP), DEEOIC

[U.S. Department of Labor](#)

December 2015 – Present (1 year 6 months)

- Currently serve as the primary nurse consultant for approximately 40+ claims examiners in the Lakewood, Colorado Regional Office.
- Provide **medical expert opinions** regarding acceptance of newly submitted primary and consequential medical condition claims.
- Complete **review of submitted medical documentation and provide expert medical opinions related to requests** for home health care, durable medical equipment services, and home modification services.
- Provide **periodic medical specific training to claims examiner** (CE) teams.
- Served as a DEEOIC representative during program outreach seminars in Grand Junction, CO and Moab, UT in June 2016.