

Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation

Black Lung Program Update

**National Coalition of Black Lung & Respiratory Disease Clinics
2018 Conference**

**Chicago, Illinois
September 26, 2018**

DCMWC Deputy Director, Ryan Jansen

▶ U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs
Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation

Current Initiatives

DOL Strategic Plan Goal:

In FY18, bring cases pending 365 days+ in PDO inventory down to 18%

- ❖ Aged Case Elimination (ACE) Project – Focus on cases >365 days
 - ❖ As of August 20, inventory of 365+ day claims = 895 (16.60%)



FY18 Nearing Completion – Current Trends

- ❖ Claim filings remained steady in FY16-FY17, FY18 actual filings to date lower than original projections for FY18
 - ❖ 5,369 in FY 2012 → 7,448 in FY 2016
 - ❖ FY 2017 actual – 7,386
 - ❖ **FY 2018 projected –7,500** (5,417 received as of July 31, 2018)

- ❖ New Claims Examiners Adding Program Capability
 - ❖ **5,435 decisions issued** as of July 31, 2018
 - ❖ **5,367 pending PDOs** as of July 31, 2018

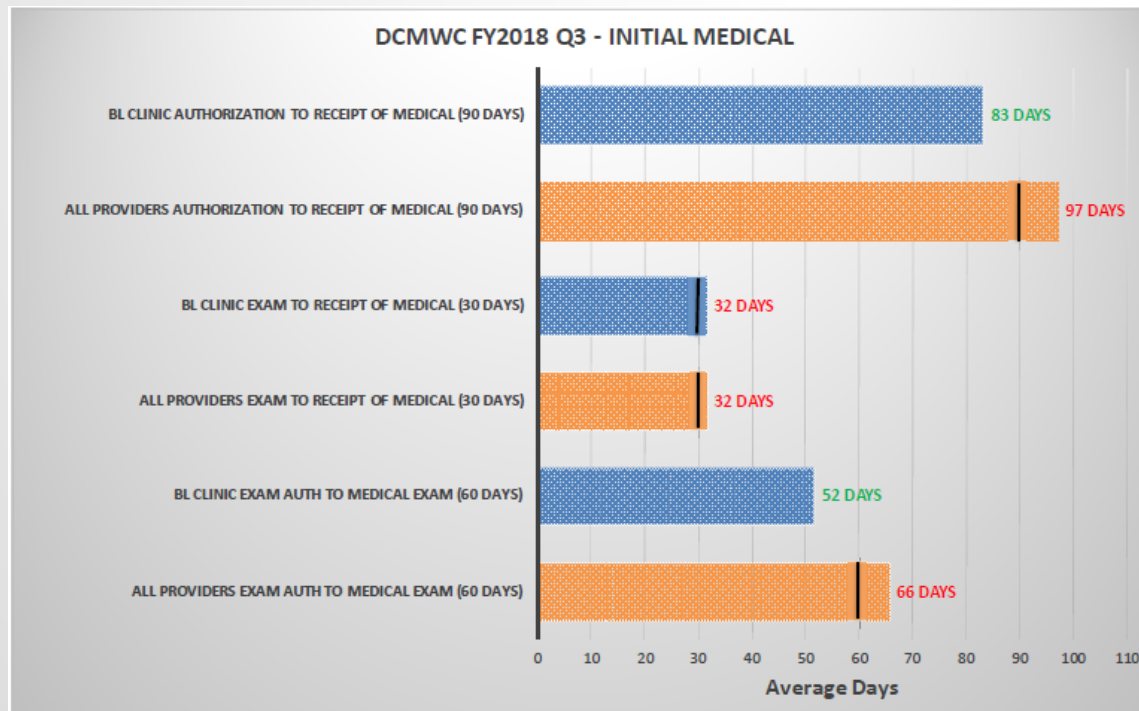
Medical Bill Payment Rulemaking

- ❖ **Final Rule issued to implement modern payment formulas for physicians, hospitals and other providers**
 - ❖ **Derived from Medicare formulas and similar to other OWCP programs (Energy and FECA programs)**
- ❖ **Provides greater clarity about fees to providers, which should speed processing and bill payment and make it easier for the Trust Fund to obtain reimbursement from coal companies.**
- ❖ **Prohibits providers from seeking additional payments from miners for covered services that have been paid by the Trust Fund.**
- ❖ **No change in medical care for miners.**
- ❖ **New regulations became effective August 31 for medical equipment, prescription drugs and inpatient medical services.**
 - ❖ **Delayed implementation for professional medical services and outpatient medical services (effective after November 30, 2019).**

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Timeliness of Initial Medical Development

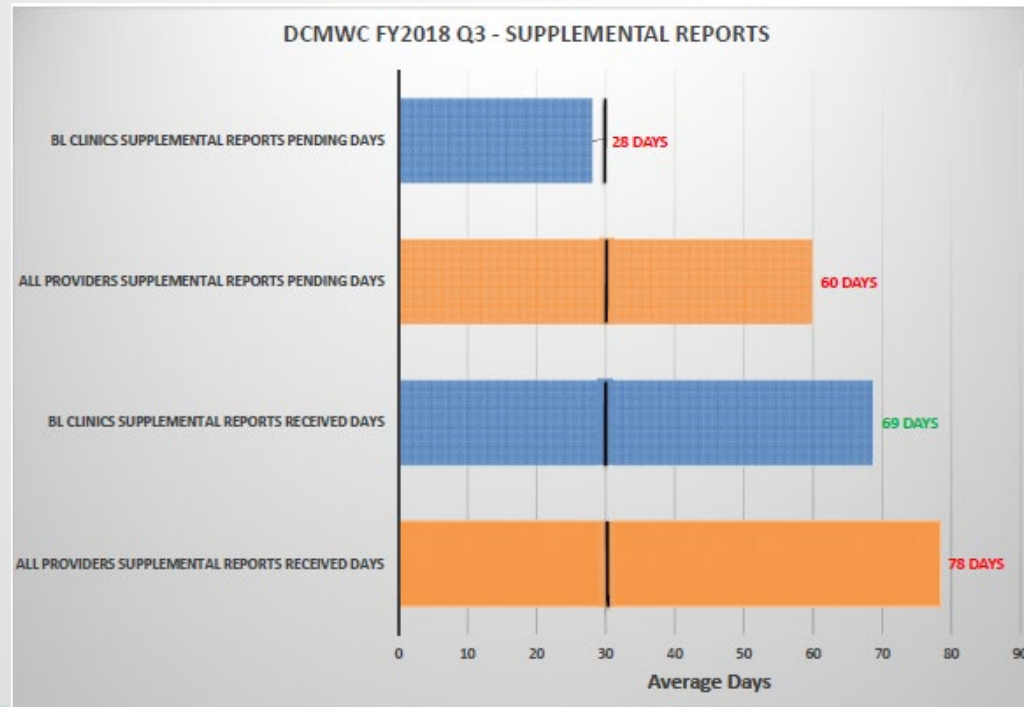
Black Lung Clinics Compared to All Providers – FY18 Q3



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Timeliness of Supplemental Reports

Black Lung Clinics Compared to All Providers – FY18 Q3



Customer Service Initiatives

- ❖ Call Queue Improvements in FY19
- ❖ C.O.A.L. Mine portal
 - ❖ We are continuing to enhance the portal's capabilities. Please continue to submit your suggestions/feedback.
- ❖ Central Mailroom – Original Documents
 - ❖ NOTE: Do not send original documents unless they are requested by the claims examiner. In most cases, a copy or certified copy is acceptable.



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THANK YOU!