
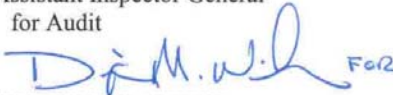


**AGENCY RESPONSE TO DRAFT REPORT**

<p><b>U.S. Department of Labor</b></p>	<p>Assistant Secretary for Employment Standards Washington, D.C. 20210</p>	
<p>SEP 29 2006</p>		
<p>MEMORANDUM FOR ELLIOT P. LEWIS Assistant Inspector General for Audit</p>		
<p>FROM:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> VICTORIA A. LIPNIC</p>	
<p>SUBJECT:</p>	<p>OWCP Nurse Intervention Program—Licensing and Confidential Procedures for Contract Nurses Draft Report No. 02-06-207-04-431</p>	
<p>This responds to your September 18, 2006 memorandum requesting comments on the subject draft audit report. The audit was conducted in response to a complaint received by the OIG hotline that alleged non-compliance with nurse licensure policies and unnecessary access to confidential medical records. The OIG found OWCP generally had procedures for documenting contract nurse licenses and restricting access to medical records in claimant files. It was further found that these procedures need to be strengthened to improve controls for the Nurse Intervention Program. Our response to the findings and recommendations is as follows:</p>		
<p><u>Recommendations</u></p>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Establish and implement policies and procedures for verification of licenses to determine renewal and good standing at regular intervals for its contract nurses.</li><li>2. Establish practices to clearly and consistently communicate with claimants delineating their responsibilities so that contract nurses do not have unnecessary access to confidential medical records.</li></ol>		
<p><u>Agency Response</u></p>		
<p>ESA concurs with the findings and recommendations. Procedures are being developed to address the concerns and will be provided under separate cover by October 31, 2006.</p>		
<p>If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact Rose Broadwater of my staff on 693-0285.</p>		