

§ 498.72 Vacating a dismissal of request for hearing.

An ALJ may vacate any dismissal of a request for hearing if a party files a request to that effect within 60 days from receipt of the notice of dismissal and shows good cause for vacating the dismissal. (Date of receipt is determined in accordance with § 498.22(b)(3).)

§ 498.74 Administrative Law Judge's decision.

(a) *Timing, basis and content.* As soon as practical after the close of the hearing, the ALJ issues a written decision in the case. The decision is based on the evidence of record and contains separate numbered findings of fact and conclusions of law.

(b) *Notice and effect.* A copy of the decision is mailed to the parties and is binding on them unless—

(1) A party requests review by the Departmental Appeals Board within the time period specified in § 498.82, and the Board reviews the case;

(2) The Departmental Appeals Board denies the request for review and the party seeks judicial review by filing an action in a United States District Court or, in the case of a civil money penalty, in a United States Court of Appeals;

(3) The decision is revised by an ALJ or the Departmental Appeals Board; or

(4) The decision is a recommended decision directed to the Board.

[52 FR 22446, June 12, 1987, as amended at 61 FR 32351, June 24, 1996]

§ 498.76 Removal of hearing to Departmental Appeals Board.

(a) At any time before the ALJ receives oral testimony, the Board may remove to itself any pending request for a hearing.

(b) Notice of removal is mailed to each party.

(c) The Board conducts the hearing in accordance with the rules that apply to ALJ hearings under this subpart.

§ 498.78 Remand by the Administrative Law Judge.

(a) If HCFA or the OIG requests remand, and the affected party concurs in writing or on the record, the ALJ may remand any case properly before him or her to HCFA or the OIG for a

determination satisfactory to the affected party.

(b) The ALJ may remand at any time before notice of hearing decision is mailed.

Subpart E—Departmental Appeals Board Review**§ 498.80 Right to request Departmental Appeals Board review of Administrative Law Judge's decision or dismissal.**

Either of the parties has a right to request Departmental Appeals Board review of the ALJ's decision or dismissal order, and the parties are so informed in the notice of the ALJ's action.

§ 498.82 Request for Departmental Appeals Board review.

(a) *Manner and time of filing.* (1) Any party that is dissatisfied with an ALJ's decision or dismissal of a hearing request, may file a written request for review by the Departmental Appeals Board.

(2) The requesting party or its representative or other authorized official must file the request with the OHA within 60 days from receipt of the notice of decision or dismissal, unless the Board, for good cause shown by the requesting party, extends the time for filing. The rules set forth in § 498.40(c) apply to extension of time for requesting Departmental Appeals Board review. (The date of receipt of notice is determined in accordance with § 498.22(c)(3).)

(b) *Content of request for review.* A request for review of an ALJ decision or dismissal must specify the issues, the findings of fact or conclusions of law with which the party disagrees, and the basis for contending that the findings and conclusions are incorrect.

§ 498.83 Departmental Appeals Board action on request for review.

(a) *Request by HCFA or the OIG.* The Departmental Appeals Board may dismiss, deny, or grant a request made by HCFA or the OIG for review of an ALJ decision or dismissal.

(b) *Request by the affected party.* The Board will grant the affected party's request for review unless it dismisses

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the request for one of the following reasons:

- (1) The affected party requests dismissal of its request for review.
- (2) The affected party did not file timely or show good cause for late filing.
- (3) The affected party does not have a right to review.
- (4) A previous determination or decision, based on the same facts and law, and regarding the same issue, has become final through judicial affirmance or because the affected party failed to timely request reconsideration, hearing, Board review, or judicial review, as appropriate.

(c) *Effect of dismissal.* The dismissal of a request for Departmental Appeals Board review is binding and not subject to further review.

(d) *Review panel.* If the Board grants a request for review of the ALJ's decision, the review will be conducted by a panel of at least two members of the Board, designated by the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson, and one individual designated by the Secretary from the U.S Public Health Service.

§ 498.85 Procedures before the Departmental Appeals Board on review.

The parties are given, upon request, a reasonable opportunity to file briefs or other written statements as to fact and law, and to appear before the Departmental Appeals Board to present evidence or oral arguments. Copies of any brief or other written statement must be sent in accordance with § 498.17.

§ 498.86 Evidence admissible on review.

(a) The Departmental Appeals Board may admit evidence into the record in addition to the evidence introduced at the ALJ hearing, (or the documents considered by the ALJ if the hearing was waived), if the Board considers that the additional evidence is relevant and material to an issue before it.

(b) If it appears to the Board that additional relevant evidence is available, the Board will require that it be produced.

(c) Before additional evidence is admitted into the record—

(1) Notice is mailed to the parties (unless they have waived notice) stat-

ing that evidence will be received regarding specified issues; and

(2) The parties are given a reasonable time to comment and to present other evidence pertinent to the specified issues.

(d) If additional evidence is presented orally to the Board, a transcript is prepared and made available to any party upon request.

§ 498.88 Decision or remand by the Departmental Appeals Board.

(a) When the Departmental Appeals Board reviews an ALJ's decision or order of dismissal, or receives a case remanded by a court, the Board may either issue a decision or remand the case to an ALJ for a hearing and decision or a recommended decision for final decision by the Board.

(b) In a remanded case, the ALJ initiates additional proceedings and takes other actions as directed by the Board in its order of remand, and may take other action not inconsistent with that order.

(c) Upon completion of all action called for by the remand order and any other consistent action, the ALJ promptly makes a decision or, as specified by the Board, certifies the case to the Board with a recommended decision.

(d) The parties have 20 days from the date of a notice of a recommended decision to submit to the Board any exception, objection, or comment on the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommended decision.

(e) After the 20-day period, the Board issues its decision adopting, modifying or rejecting the ALJ's recommended decision.

(f) If the Board does not remand the case to an ALJ, the following rules apply:

(1) The Board's decision—

(i) Is based upon the evidence in the hearing record and any further evidence that the Board receives during its review;

(ii) Is in writing and contains separate numbered findings of fact and conclusions of law; and

(iii) May modify, affirm, or reverse the ALJ's decision.

(2) A copy of the Board's decision is mailed to each party.