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Cold War Patriots is a division of Professional Case Management and not affiliated with the U.S. Department of Labor.

FOR THE LATEST UPDATES
www.coldwarpatriots.org
1.877.335.0779

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What Is Stomach Cancer and How Would I Know If I Have It?

The stomach is a J-shaped organ that lies in the middle left part of your abdomen. It is part of the larger gastrointestinal system. As such it receives food and liquid that you ingest, breaks it all down and then, after certain nutrients are extracted for your body's energy needs, passes the remaining digested substances along to the small and large bowel for further processing and eventual elimination as waste.

Incidence:

Stomach cancer (also known as gastric cancer) begins in the stomach. It is the fourth most common malignancy worldwide. It is nearly twice as common in men than in women. Over the past 20 years early detection and treatment, along with new therapies have led to a higher number of long-term survivors of stomach cancer. Early diagnosis leads to better outcomes and potential cures. The occurrence in nuclear workers, metal workers, and miners, is 7-15% higher than the general population due to carcinogen exposure in the workplace. The incidence of stomach cancer tends to be higher in Hispanics and Asians compared to Caucasians, African Americans or Native Americans.

Risk Factors:

- ★ H. Pylori bacterial infection in the stomach is a risk factor, but most people with H. Pylori do not go on to develop stomach cancer.
- ★ Smoking doubles the risk compared to non-smokers.
- ★ Ionizing radiation, both high levels including radiation treatment for other diseases, as well as low-level long-term radiation exposure such as can happen in U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear weapons complexes or uranium mines around the U.S.
- ★ Asbestos dust exposure, often inhaled and ingested.
- ★ Other dust exposures such as mineral, metal, or even wood dust during machining or cutting activities.
- ★ Exposure to various toxic chemicals such as TCE (trichloroethylene), PAH (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon), pesticides with phenoxyacetic acids, diesel exhaust, rubber manufacturing byproducts, nitrogen oxides, organic solvents to name a few. Most of these can be encountered in the nuclear weapons manufacturing world.
- ★ Family history of stomach cancer, personal history of previous gastro-intestinal (GI) cancer.
- ★ Diets that are heavy in smoked, pickled or salt-preserved foods.



Signs and Symptoms:

Bloating, indigestion, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, weight loss, unexplained stomach pain, weakness, change in bowel habit, color, texture or bulk. If you experience any of these changes, you should see your doctor for an exam and testing.

Diagnosis and Treatment

A physical exam and tests such as blood tests, imaging studies including CT Scan, barium study with x-rays, endoscopy with a tiny camera to directly visualize the stomach or exploratory laparoscopic surgery. The earlier the diagnosis and stage of the cancer, the better your chances of a cure.

Treatment Can Include:

1 surgery to remove the cancerous tumor, **2** partial or total gastrectomy (removal of part or all of the stomach) **3** radiation therapy to shrink the tumor and kill remaining cancer cells, **4** chemotherapy, **5** immunotherapy that targets certain cells, **6** a combination of any or all of the above treatments, or **7** palliative/comfort therapy in more advanced cancer cases.

If you or your doctor think you may have developed stomach cancer caused by toxic exposures in the nuclear weapons workplace or uranium mines, you could be eligible to file a claim for benefits under the EEOICPA or RECA programs, administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

Helpful Hints For Filing a Successful Claim with the U.S. Department of Labor

- ★ Make sure you have completed an occupational history questionnaire. What you were exposed to, when, where, and for how long is important information to help successfully prove your EEOICPA claim. Obtain a copy of your employment records including job titles.
- ★ Obtain copies of all your medical records from your doctors, including history and physical exams, test results, diagnoses and treatments related to your condition(s).

If you feel unsure about the process, don't hesitate to call the Cold War Patriots Help Center at 1.877.335.0779.

Cold War Patriots Help Center

The Cold War Patriots Help Center assists nuclear weapons and uranium workers navigate programs related to EEOICPA and RECA. Many Help Center representatives are former workers themselves and understand personally the issues that you may face. The Help Center is open Monday through Friday from 7 am to 5 pm MST.

Please call 877.335.0779 or email us at info@coldwarpatriots.org.



Events



Official Cold War Patriots National Day of Remembrance™

Every October, the Official Cold War Patriots National Day of Remembrance™ honors the men and women working in the U.S. nuclear weapons and uranium industries, and recognizes those who are no longer with us. Often working in secrecy, these patriots have been instrumental in the protection of our nation — from WWII to today.

2019 marks the 11th anniversary of the Cold War Patriots National Day of Remembrance™... and you're invited to help us recognize our living legends and remember the fallen heroes.

As a Special Thank You

This year, as a special means of recognition to all of those who protected our nation, we will be distributing a commemorative Cold War Patriots lapel pin during the ceremony. This custom pin recognizes the living legends and fallen heroes whose extraordinary work will never be forgotten.

We hope you will wear your pin proudly.



**Pick up your pin at any Cold War Patriots
National Day of Remembrance™ event.**



**Do you have a former co-worker or friend who worked
in the nuclear weapons or uranium industries?
Call 866.306.7585 to have them added to the invitation list.**

Event Schedule

★ 9:30 am – 10:00 am ★

Registration

★ 10:00 am – 11:30 am ★

Recognition and National Day of Remembrance Program

★ 11:30 am – 12:30 pm ★

Lunch and Worker Reunion Hour

October 22

Arvada Center
6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada, CO

October 24

Fernald Preserve Visitors Center
7400 Willey Rd., Hamilton, OH

October 28

National Atomic Testing Museum
755 E. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, NV

October 23

Robert Cherry Civic Center
2701 Park Ave., Paducah, KY

October 25

OSU Endeavor Center
1862 Shyville Rd., Piketon, OH

October 30

North Augusta Community Center
495 Brookside Ave., North Augusta, SC

October 23

Crownpoint Chapter House
Chapter House Dr., Crownpoint, NM

October 25

New Hope Center at
Y-12 National Security Complex
602 Scarboro Rd., Oak Ridge, TN

October 30

Richland Community Center
500 Amon Park Dr., Richland, WA

October 24

Santa Claran Hotel & Casino
Mountain View Room - 7th Floor
460 N. Riverside Dr., Española, NM

October 28

VFW Post 1475
1401 S.W. 8th Ave., Amarillo, TX



Check your inbox and mailbox for your official
National Day of Remembrance™ invitation.

Updates & News

SEC Expansion Updates

Y-12 Plant - Tennessee

A day before this newsletter went to print, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recommended that the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) be expanded for the Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The expanded SEC would cover all employees who worked at the Y-12 Plant during the period of January 1, 1977 through July 31, 1979 for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days. This would make the entire SEC for Y-12 Plant March 1, 1943 – July 31, 1979. This SEC is still in the approval process, but could go into effect as early as December 2019. Please check www.coldwarpatriots.org for updates.



Y-12 SEC Petitioners Addressing the Board

News from the Advisory Board

On August 21, 2019 the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health held an in-person meeting in Oak Ridge, TN.

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) presented two new Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) petitions to the Board. The first one, SEC petition 250 for Y-12, qualified for years 1977 through 1994.

The second petition is for the West Valley Demonstration Project, located in the state of New York. NIOSH recommended that the board approve this site as a member of the SEC. The years covered are 1966 through 1973.

At the time of this publication, the Y-12 Plant SEC, for years 1977 through 1979 are under the approval process, as well as the West Valley Demonstration Project for years 1969 through 1973. These dates could go into effect as early as December 2019. If the Board approves any of these petitions, then workers, or their survivors, employed at those sites who worked for 250 days and developed one of the 22 cancers specified by the law will not need to undergo dose reconstruction. Their claims will be automatically compensated under Part B of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act, as amended, for \$150,000 plus medical benefits. They are also automatically covered under Part E of the Act for any impairment, wage loss or certain survivor benefits.

LaVon Rutherford of NIOSH reported to the board that he reviewed five boxes of Rocky Flats documents that the petitioner for Rocky Flats requested. These boxes are located at Los Alamos National Lab. He determined that one document is relevant to the Rocky Flats SEC. That document is now with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and is under a classification review to ensure no national security issues will be revealed. He also located a document concerning Oak Ridge National Laboratory. That document, too, is with the U.S. DOE.

The Work Group for the Savannah River Site reported that SC&A, the Board's technical contractor, is reviewing NIOSH's co-worker model. They plan to have a joint in person meeting in September with the SEC Work Group.

Event Recap

Thank you to everyone who attended one of over 100 Cold War Patriots events we've hosted this year. Cold War Patriots had the opportunity to bring information about EEOICPA and RECA, as well as resources from the U.S. DOL Energy Employees Resource Centers, Office of the Ombudsman and Medical Screening Programs to over 1,000 Cold War Patriots members. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Cold War Patriots Official National Day of Remembrance™ and our remaining events throughout the year.



Kentucky Social



Nevada Social



Nevada Town Hall



Ohio Social



Tennessee Social



Tennessee Social



Tennessee Social



Tennessee Social



Texas Social



Washington Social



Washington Town Hall



Colorado Social

Do You Qualify For More Financial Compensation?

Call 888.837.7393
or visit
PCMimpairments.com

PCM IMPAIRMENTS



Did you know that, as a nuclear weapons or uranium worker, you could qualify for even more financial compensation? To determine if you qualify, you'll need an impairment evaluation, which must be performed by a certified physician who is enrolled in the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) EEOICPA program.

Each additional 1% of impairment caused by existing conditions, new covered conditions, or consequential conditions qualifies you for \$2,500, up to a maximum of \$250,000. That's on top of what you may have already earned in Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) or Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) financial compensation.

PCM Impairments offers impairment evaluations that include a thorough medical records review, plus an in-depth conversation with an impairment physician over the phone in the privacy of your own home. We believe this direct, personal interaction with a physician provides you with the best and most thorough impairment evaluation experience.

PCM Impairments Evaluations Include:

- A thorough medical records review.
- An in-depth conversation with an impairment physician.
- The doctor does not charge for the evaluation. Your EEOICPA benefits cover one impairment evaluation every two years, or sooner if new or consequential covered conditions arise.
- Nationwide access.

JOIN US FOR UPCOMING "DOC TALKS"

Check your mail for additional details, dates and times.



This event is exclusively for workers with a U.S. DOL white medical benefits card or an EEOICPA pending claim.



MEET THE PHYSICIANS

Donald Lakatos, M.D., Norm Walton, M.D., and Randy Soo Hoo, M.D. are certified by the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners (ABIME), the premier certifying body for impairment evaluators. Each has more than 12 years of experience providing impairment evaluations to nuclear weapons and uranium workers.



To see if you qualify for more financial compensation,
please call 888.837.7393 or visit PCMimpairments.com.