

**We did our part to
keep America free!**

IN THIS EDITION:

- ★ Updates & News | Pg 1
- ★ Ask an EEOICP Expert | Pg 2
- ★ Event Information | Pg 3
- ★ Your Everyday Patriots | Pg 3
- ★ CWP and PCM Spotlight | Pg 4
- ★ One Woman's Journey for Care and Her Continued Fight for Fellow Workers | Pg 4
- ★ Compassionate Care for You & Your Family | Pg 5
- ★ Receive Medical Equipment & Supplies | Pg 6
- ★ PCM Impairment Evaluations | Pg 7



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

Updates & News

News from the Advisory Board

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health's (ABRWH) held a two-day virtual meeting on April 14-15, 2021.

Special Exposure Cohort Update — Savannah River Site

The ABRWH recommended that subcontract construct trade workers employed at the Savannah River Site between October 1, 1972 and December 31, 1990 be included in the Special Exposure Cohort. Once the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) publishes when they will begin processing claims, Cold War Patriots will alert our members.

The Advisory Board on Toxic Substance and Worker Health (ABTSWH) met April 22-23, 2021—unfortunately, after this newsletter went to print. To read a recap of that meeting, visit coldwar patriots.org.

Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2021

Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) is set to expire in 2022. The House Judiciary Subcommittee held a hearing to examine the need to expand eligibility. At the hearing, witnesses stressed the importance of extending the program, expanding coverage and labor categories, increasing the number of counties and states who can be eligible to file claims as a downwinder, and requested medical benefits be added to RECA. When Cold War Patriots learns more about if legislation will be introduced, we will alert Cold War Patriots members.

★ We Need Your Help To Get ★
This Legislation Passed This Year!

Senator Murray (D-WA), Senator Manchin (D-WV) and Congressman Smith (D-WA) introduced the **Toxic Exposure Safety Act of 2021** on March 25, 2021. If passed, this legislation will reduce the burden of proof for many claimants and streamline the claims' process. With the new legislation, the U.S Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) scientific community will be responsible for determining whether a toxic substance resulted in a disease. This is great news for the claimants as some will no longer need to provide scientific reports and rationalized reports from their physician to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Please contact your legislator and ask them to co-sponsor the Toxic Exposure Safety Act of 2021. This can be done by calling their local office or completing the contact form available on their website. You can also share your experience with the claims process, especially if you have previously been denied. So far, only Senator Heinrich and Senator Ben Ray Lujan of New Mexico have co-sponsored the bill.

If you are unsure who your representatives are, visit the two websites below to find their contact information:

- ★ house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative
- ★ senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm

★ Please share this information with your family and friends and encourage them to raise their concerns as well. Every email or call will make a difference. As always, thank you for your support. ★

Ask an EEOICP Expert

BY: TIM LEREW, COLD WAR PATRIOTS

What is the purpose of EEOICPA?

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA), effective in July 2001, was created to provide monetary compensation and free health care benefits to nuclear weapons workers who became ill as a result of their workplace exposure to radioactive and toxic substances. EEOICPA benefits are administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Qualifying beneficiaries include employees, contractors and subcontractors who worked at any of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) or Atomic Weapons Employer facilities covered under this program.



What medical expenses are covered under EEOICP?

When a claim is approved under EEOICP for a living worker, the medical costs that are considered common and customary for an approved illness can be covered 100%. Medical payments are retroactive to the earliest date the claim was filed for the specific illness. Your physician must be enrolled in the program to accept the card and receive reimbursement. The physician will be paid directly from the U.S. DOL and you will have no out of pocket expenses. There are no copays, caps, or deductibles.

What services are covered by my U.S. DOL white medical benefits card?

Services covered include:

- ★ Physician office visits
- ★ Inpatient/outpatient medical treatment
- ★ Hospital visits
- ★ Prescription drugs (brand and generic)
- ★ Ambulance service
- ★ Travel reimbursement
- ★ In-home health care
- ★ Medical equipment, including durable medical equipment (DME)

What types of in-home health care can I receive?

In-home health care can vary by individual and can include skilled nursing or unskilled care. Skilled care is performed by a Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Some individuals only need monthly monitoring or weekly visits while others need round-the-clock care. Unskilled care is performed by a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Home Health Aide or Personal Care Attendant for needs such as meal preparation and light housekeeping.

In-home health care allows you to live at home rather than a nursing home or assisted living facility and provides relief to a spouse or family member in the caregiving role. Unlike other in-home care programs, you do not have to be homebound to receive in-home care services under EEOICPA.

If you need assistance or have questions on how to apply or maximize your EEOICP benefits, **please call the Cold War Patriots Outreach Help Center at 1.877.335.0779.** We have helped thousands of workers receive the benefits you have earned.

Event Information

Cold War Patriots continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation, so we can begin safely hosting in-person events this summer. Keep an eye on your mailbox for an invitation. We look forward to seeing you!

In the meantime, please join our Virtual Events from the comfort of your home. We have available a variety of 25–50 minute virtual events, including events hosted by an Impairment Doctor and Certified Respiratory Therapist. **Visit coldwar patriots.org/CWPevents to sign up.**

Your Everyday Patriots



This quarter's Everyday Patriots are Don, Larry, and Bob. Together these three patriots have over 99 years of experience as nuclear weapons workers, holding important and unique roles, including: Multi-craft Foreman, Pipe Fitter, Machinist, National Organizing Director for the Machinists Union, Associate Research Scientist, and Experimental Nuclear Physicist!



Don

Don worked at Rocky Flats and now works to arrange retiree breakfasts and encourage others to pursue their EEOICP benefits.



Larry

Larry worked in Oak Ridge and now arranges Union Retiree breakfasts and is a regular attendee at CWP and PCM events.



Bob

Bob worked at Rocky Flats and received several prestigious awards. Just as impressive, Bob and his wife have fostered 75 kids!

Through their health benefits from Professional Case Management they can focus on remaining physically healthy and mentally sharp—allowing Don to perfect his wood carving, Larry to continue his community volunteerism, and Bob to work on his model railroads! Their final bit of advice? Stay as physically active as possible, if your illnesses prevents this, stay mentally active!

Cold War Patriots is proud to tell these stories. To learn more about this year's Everyday Patriots, visit ColdWarPatriots.org/EverydayPatriot. If you did not receive your 2021 Cold War Patriots Calendar, please call our **Outreach Help Center at 877.335.0779.**

CWP and PCM Spotlight



My name is Shasta and I have worked at Cold War Patriots (CWP) and Professional Case Management (PCM) since 2012. As a Community Homecare Outreach Representative, I help current and former nuclear weapons workers navigate the sometimes-complicated Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICP). I also work to ensure that healthcare providers in our community understand the benefits available to their patients who have received the U.S. Department of Labor white medical benefits card.

While most of my work is focused on Tennessee, I have had the opportunity to travel around the country and visit many other U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sites—I may have even met you at one of the Cold War Patriots Events! Many generations of my family have worked and continue to work in the Oak Ridge National Security Complex, including my great-uncle, both my parents, and my husband—all of whom are Cold War Patriots members. I grew up with a great appreciation for the work the men and women of our community completed “inside the fence.” I am passionate about assisting U.S. DOE workers who have become ill, through no fault of their own, working to protect our great nation.

One Woman’s Journey for Care and Her Continued Fight for Fellow Workers



“It is so important for those of us with our U.S. Department of Labor white medical benefits card to talk to and help others in pursuit of theirs.”

Linda worked at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina from 1999 to 2011. In August of 2000, misfortune struck, and Linda was contaminated during the pulling of ceiling cables at work.

In 2000 EEOICPA was enacted, Linda received her U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) white medical benefits card and after years of dogged pursuit, research, calls, and letter after letter, Linda finally had her first covered condition added to her white card.

Throughout this time, Linda continued to work, but due to her worsening health, she retired early in March 2011. Linda then partnered with her doctor and together they made calls, wrote letters, and researched EEOICPA. The result? All of her debilitating illnesses became listed on her U.S. DOL white medical benefits card.

In 2012 Linda attended CWP’s first event in Savannah, Georgia. Today, Linda receives in-home care from Professional Case Management (PCM), and her husband and daughter have been trained by PCM to be her personal care attendants.

After becoming a CWP member and meeting others at events, Linda decided to dedicate herself to helping other patriots in need of obtaining the benefits they have earned.

Compassionate Care for You and Your Family



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“Since I started receiving in-home health care, PCM has absorbed many of my medical responsibilities which allows my family and myself more independence.”

Addison K., former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant worker of 10 years and PCM client of 2 years

At Professional Case Management (PCM) it is our honor to provide the best possible care in the best possible place—your home. Our Nurses and Caregivers follow the core principles of focus, experience, quality, and compassion to provide in-home care services with the highest standards and ethics in the industry. As a PCM client, no matter the level of care you receive, at the heart of your health care team is your Registered Nurse (RN) Case Manager, who collaborates with your physicians, other health care professionals, and your family to develop a comprehensive and coordinated plan of care for you.

PCM’s dedicated and knowledgeable health care team can deliver a full range of services; from monthly visits to extensive, round-the-clock continuous care. As a PCM client you can take comfort in knowing that all PCM Case Managers are Registered Nurses and will create an individualized assessment based on

your current health status and a plan of care to progress towards your desired outcome. They will assist you with any equipment needs, outline recommended activities so you can maintain the independence and quality of life you have earned, ensure your nutritional requirements are met, and safety measures are in place.

Your Case Manager will also routinely review and manage all your medications to identify any potential adverse reactions or significant side effects that could result in hospitalizations and lasting damage.

At PCM our caregivers often become like family members to our clients, and it has been our privilege for the past decades to serve the nuclear weapons and uranium workers who fought for our freedom.

Every nuclear weapons or uranium worker and their family can benefit right now from the care PCM provides. Having that care in place now, even at a very modest level, can provide for the best possible outcomes in managing your illnesses.

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“My Case Manager and Nurses are dependable and sincerely care about my health and well-being. They are respectful to me and my family and they involve and educate my family regarding my medical needs and concerns.”

Addison K.



Professional Case Management

Helping Nuclear & Uranium Workers Live at Home

Call us today at 1.877.335.0779 to speak with an Outreach Specialist and begin your journey of care with PCM, bringing peace of mind for you and your loved ones.

Receive the Medical Equipment and Supplies You Need

As a recipient of the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) white medical benefits card, the cost of any medical supply or durable medical equipment (DME) for your covered conditions are paid for under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICP).

At PCM, we assist you in receiving your DME. After a physician determines the DME is medically necessary for the treatment of your accepted conditions, PCM will ensure your equipment gets delivered and set up properly.

How do you know if you need a DME? When you are a PCM client, your Case Manager and Care team evaluates your needs. For example, recently, during a visit with a PCM client, a Case Manager noticed the client's oxygen tanks were heavy and impeding his mobility. The Case Manager worked with the PCM client's provider of choice and received a new portable oxygen concentrator. Now, the PCM client can complete his daily activities with ease and feel comfortable while out and about.



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“Every PCM Case Manager goes above and beyond to provide service to their clients. They don’t see it as anything special or out of the ordinary, it is just who they are.”

Judy T., PCM Regional Director in Kentucky.

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“One of our Case Managers visited with a nuclear weapons worker and found that he needed oxygen. Our Case Manager assisted in getting them connected with a local DME supplier that was able to meet their needs...”

Judy T.

“One of our Case Managers visited with a nuclear weapons worker and found that he needed oxygen. Our Case Manager assisted in getting them connected with a local DME supplier that was able to meet their needs,” explained Judy T.

At PCM, we regularly assist nuclear weapons and uranium workers in receiving the medical equipment they need, including oxygen, walkers, lift chairs, and more.

If you have your U.S. DOL white medical benefits card, call our PCM Outreach Help Center at 1.877.335.0779 to begin receiving the medical benefits you have earned.



IMPAIRMENTS

Impairment Evaluations, Can Be as Easy as 1-2-3!

1

Step ONE? Call PCM Impairments first.

We are the first ones to call when you receive your U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) white medical benefits card, your recommended decision letter, or when you think you may be due for another impairment. Impairment evaluations may lead to monetary compensation under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program. For every 1% of whole-body impairment, you can receive \$2,500. For example, if your Impairment Rating is determined to be 20%, that means \$50,000.

2

Every TWO years, get re-evaluated.

Most U.S. DOL white medical benefits card holders can be re-evaluated for an impairment every few years. If it has been at or around two years since your last decision from a previous impairment evaluation, or you have received a new covered condition, call us to see if it is time to start the process again.

3

Visit one of PCM Impairments THREE expert physicians.

Once PCM receives U.S. DOL authorization for your impairment evaluation, we will collect your medical records and schedule an appointment with one of our THREE highly qualified, certified impairment physicians. They will have a live conversation with you about your covered conditions, and how they impact your day-to-day life. This is different than other impairment evaluations which just conduct a medical record review without having a conversation with you.



We are certain you will have a great experience with PCM Impairments. You have a choice in Impairment providers, so why not choose the best? If you have used another provider in the past, it's no problem—you can start fresh, and we can begin assisting you today!

Call us at 866.578.2580.