

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

**TOP 10** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**EEO/ICPA FAQs**  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **ANSWERED**

**OUR MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS SOURCED  
DIRECTLY FROM YOU DURING OUR IN-PERSON EVENTS!**



**Want to learn more?**

## Cold War Patriots can help!

As the first and longest serving advocacy, education and information resource for nuclear weapons and uranium workers, Cold War Patriots (CWP), a division of Professional Case Management (PCM), has had the opportunity to speak directly with thousands of nuclear weapons and uranium workers and their families about their biggest concerns, frustrations and uncertainties related to the benefits they have earned under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).

CWP was established by PCM to help bridge the knowledge gap so that workers and their families don't miss out on the critical government benefits for which they may qualify. One of the organization's most effective means of educating workers and their families has been through its Town Hall community information events. Since 2008 CWP has hosted more than a thousand Town Halls in dozens of communities across America.



This article summarizes the 10 most common questions asked during the Town Halls. We hope it addresses some of your initial concerns, while allowing you to come up with questions specific to your situation.

### 1 How do I qualify for benefits?

Although you may have heard of EEOICPA, you may not understand how the application process works. You may assume that, since you worked at a nuclear weapons complex or uranium mine, you automatically qualify and will be notified by the U.S. DOL or U.S. DOE. That is not the case. You have to proactively apply in order to be considered. You will need to meet two primary criteria: a physician must a medical diagnosis of a possibly work-related illness and you must be able to provide proof of qualifying employment at a DOE site.

### 2 How do I qualify for a free medical screening?

Nearly every nuclear weapons or uranium worker is entitled to receive free medical screening every three years, regardless of a diagnosis or symptoms. The medical screening can detect potentially life-threatening illnesses early. There are multiple venues for medical screening, depending on the type of job you held at the facility. It is not, however, necessary to participate in the free medical screening to qualify for EEOICPA benefits.

### 3 What type of medical services are available after I've been approved for a white card?

The list of awarded benefits and available lifetime services for qualified workers is extensive. It includes everything from visits with general physicians and specialists to a wide array of therapy sessions and treatments for approved work-related illnesses, such as many cancers, COPD, neuropathy, and chronic beryllium disease. It can also cover prescription medications and necessary medical equipment, such as wheelchairs and oxygen tanks. In addition, workers can qualify for reimbursement for travel expenses, including mileage, meals and overnight stays related to a medical appointment for their covered illnesses. Health benefits for accepted work-related illnesses are completely free with no co-pays, deductibles or spending caps.



## 4

### **Beyond medical care, what other support services are provided?**

You may also be eligible for free home healthcare which is critical to helping maintain independence and achieving a higher quality of life. It can also provide welcome relief to your family caregivers who may otherwise be overwhelmed with the responsibilities of caring for you on their own. Additionally, home healthcare specialists provide peace of mind to family members who live out of the area and are not available to provide hands-on care but worry about your health and well-being.



## 5

### **Can my family members get paid for providing in-home care to me?**

Another benefit of EEOICPA is that it allows companies like PCM to provide training and pay qualified family members who provide in-home care for a sick covered worker.

## 6

### **When and how can I get an impairment evaluation?**

A common myth is that diagnosis of a covered illness from any healthcare provider is sufficient to qualify for impairment compensation. The fact is that the doctor submitting documentation of the stated impairment must be board-certified in impairment evaluation and meet DOL requirements. Professional Case Management, the first and largest provider of home healthcare services to nuclear weapons and uranium workers, employs doctors certified in impairment evaluations. Workers can receive an impairment evaluation upon EEOICPA approval and every two years after that, or more frequently if there is diagnosis of a new illness, the onset of a terminal illness or the diagnosis of a consequential illness (which is a health problem that results from a covered illness). The impairment rating a worker receives determines how much additional compensation the worker can receive over a period of time.



## 7

### **What type of monetary compensation is available?**

Depending on which parts of the program you qualify for and your specific impairment rating, you could receive up to \$400,000 in tax-free compensation (\$150,000 for a Part B claim and up to \$250,000 for a Part E claim). Survivors of deceased workers can receive \$125,000 or more.

## 8 Is there a time limit for applying for benefits?

There are no time restrictions for applying for or receiving benefits. EEOICPA covers employees, subcontractors and contractors involved in the nuclear weapons program from 1942 until the present day who became ill because of work-related radiation or exposure to other toxic substances. Although there are no deadlines for applying for the benefits, most workers and their families gain from using the health benefits they have earned sooner to better manage health problems, improve quality of life, and help extend the worker's life expectancy.

## 9 How can I appeal a denied claim for coverage?

While it is free to appeal through an Energy Employees Compensation Resource Center, some workers may choose to hire a professional advocate. Whether a paid professional advocate is involved or not, there are a few ways to successfully appeal a denied claim. These include uncovering new information, such as DOL procedure manual changes affecting qualifications; new medical information; new evidence to substantiate days worked; locating lost employment records; and identifying evidence in the case file that was overlooked by the claims examiner.

## 10 Will the benefits I receive under EEOICPA interfere with my Medicare benefits?

No. These programs are independent and are not exclusive of each other, meaning that covered workers can still receive full Medicare benefits for medical services not related to the medical conditions approved on their EEOICPA medical benefits white card.



We hope these answers helped. You will likely have questions specific to your benefits application or how to use the benefits if you have already been approved. Cold War Patriots and its parent company, Professional Case Management, are available to help. Contact the Cold War Patriot Help Center Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. mountain time at (888) 903-8989 or email [info@coldwarpatriots.org](mailto:info@coldwarpatriots.org). All consultations and services provided by Cold War Patriots and Professional Case Management are available to you free of charge.

**Have a question that wasn't answered? Call or email us at:**

- ★ [866.386.2963](tel:866.386.2963) Monday-Friday from 7 a.m-5 p.m. Mountain Time
- ★ [info@coldwarpatriots.org](mailto:info@coldwarpatriots.org)

