

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

IN THIS EDITION:

- ★ Updates & News | Pg 1-2
- ★ CWP Outreach Spotlight | Pg 3
- ★ Cold War Patriots Events | Pg 4
- ★ PCM Senior Case Manager Spotlight | Pg 5
- ★ PCM Clients Advocate for Fellow Workers with Similar Conditions | Pg 6
- ★ PCM Impairments Corner | Pg 7



Edition 52 | Volume 15 | 2024

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

P.O. Box 18916 | Denver, CO 80218-9927

★ Recent changes to the U.S. DOL procedure manuals, potential new SECs and laws are being discussed that could affect your benefits. Call us today to learn if your benefits could be impacted by these updates! ★

www.coldwarpatriots.org

1.877.335.0779

How the Office of the Ombudsman Can Assist You with Your Claim

BY MALCOLM NELSON, FORMER EEOICPA OMBUDSMAN

Most people contact the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Office of the Ombudsman (the Office) because they need help with their claim. The U.S. DOL's Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation (DEEOIC), the agency that administers the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA), as well as the other agencies involved with this program have developed several useful tools. However, some people are not aware that these resources exist, while others find it difficult to locate and utilize them. As a result, people at every stage of the claims process approach the Office seeking assistance and guidance with their issues and claims.



The Office offers a wide range of knowledge and support that may be difficult to obtain elsewhere and is designed to help claimants with questions that may be challenging. This includes a knowledge of the services and resources offered by the various agencies involved with the program. Thus, as appropriate the Office may direct individuals to the Resource Center, District Office, or other agency/office that can best assist with a particular issue or will contact that organization to obtain needed information. Other assistance provided by the Office includes:

- ★ Providing information on the various steps within the EEOICPA and the EEOICPA claims process
- ★ Assisting claimants in understanding documents associated with the program
- ★ Helping claimants obtain a current status of their claim
- ★ Offering suggestions on where to search for needed information
- ★ Helping individuals understand legal, medical and/or scientific terms and concepts
- ★ Serving as a sounding board for feedback on the process

In 2021 Congress amended the EEOICPA to provide for the permanent extension of the Office. This ensures that claimants and potential claimants with complaints, grievances, requests for assistance, as well as compliments will continue to have an independent office that stands ready to provide them with assistance and guidance with EEOICPA claims. It also ensures that there will continue to be an office that values listening to what they have to say.

Read more about the Ombudsman's Office's advocacy and the U.S. DOL's accountability to claimants online by visiting the Cold War Patriots blog at coldwarpatriots.org/blog.

Get More of the Benefits You Have Earned

Announcing Better Access and Significant Upgrades to Your Health Benefits

As a nuclear weapons or uranium worker, we are pleased to share with you important new updates and changes to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) procedure manual and policy that may make it easier for you to qualify for improved monetary and health care coverage included with the U.S. DOL medical benefits white card that you have worked so hard to earn.

WHAT'S NEW?

Many illnesses that commonly afflict nuclear weapons and uranium workers like you, including pleural plaques, leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, lung cancer, and many others now have reduced barriers to benefits approval. Let us guide you through these impactful revisions in the updated ***U.S. DOL Recent Changes Easy Reference Guide – Winter 2024*** that we created specifically for you.

LEARN MORE ABOUT:

The updated asbestos exposure for a pleural plaques diagnosis, benzene exposure leading to leukemia, and new policies making lung cancer claims possible. Under the recent revisions, these may now be covered in addition to many other illnesses that could be affecting your quality of life right now.

Whether or not you already have the U.S. DOL medical benefits white card, if you previously did not file for a work-related illness because you believed you would not qualify—or filed and were denied—you must act now to understand how these compelling new changes may improve your illness eligibility and make it easier to appeal denied claims.

Don't miss out on critical financial compensation and vital health benefits available to you. When you contact us, attend a Cold War Patriots event, or request our easy reference guide, we will help you understand how the U.S. DOL enhancements affect your ability to qualify for benefits on existing conditions.

Access Your Hard-Earned Benefits

Call **866.754.1073** or visit coldwarpatriots.org/winterbenefits1 and we will mail you the ***U.S. DOL Recent Changes Easy-Reference Guide***.



Outreach Spotlight



CODY RETTINGHOUSE

- ★ Washington
- ★ cody.rettinghouse@procasemanagement.com
- ★ 509.308.3947

I joined Professional Case Management (PCM) and Cold War Patriots (CWP) in 2023. I was born and raised in the greater Tri-Cities region including Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland, West Richland, and I am privileged to serve those in my hometown. Before coming to PCM, I had the opportunity to

work with local health care providers and individuals with respiratory-related diseases, and I take pride that I can continue my mission of helping those in need here at PCM.

In my role, I strive to ensure Hanford workers have the resources and knowledge that the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) offers so that if they need our assistance they know where to go and who to call.

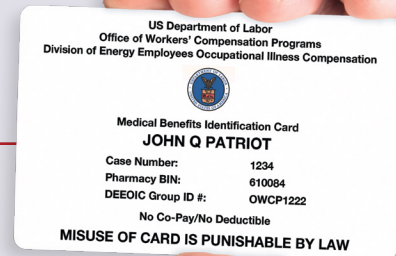
I have many family members, family friends, and acquaintances that have retired from Hanford or continue to work there, and I hope to help as many workers as possible receive the benefits they have earned.

I thank each and every one of you for the work you did to help our country. At PCM we are here to help you with any in-home health care needs you might have. Whether that be something as small as light housekeeping or meal preparation to provide relief to a spouse or family member or more in-depth care from a Registered Nurse, Certified Nursing Assistant, or Home Health Aide. I look forward to assisting you in whatever care you may need.

Do you have questions about your U.S. Department of Labor medical benefits white card application or claim?

Contact Us Today ★ We're Happy To Help!

Please call our Outreach Help Center at **888.903.8989** so we can help you with your questions.



Cold War Patriots Events

Cold War Patriots (CWP) is looking forward to another year of events! Read below for the types of events we will be hosting throughout this year! For those unable to join us in-person, we will continue to offer Virtual Events.



Benefits Review Events

Workers are invited to stop by to speak with an EEOICPA and RECA expert, Advocate, and other resources. During these one-on-one sessions, we sit down with you to discuss your specific needs.



Drive By Events

Workers are invited to stop by, pick up a special gift and reconnect with old friends. Past giveaway items have included blankets, cutting boards, camping chairs, and BBQ grill sets!



Doc Talk Events

If you have your U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) medical benefits white card, join us for lunch to hear directly from an Impairment Doctor from PCM Impairments about the additional benefits you have earned.



Virtual Events

We will continue hosting a variety of 25 – 50 minute events you can watch from the comfort of your home, including Town Halls, Doc Talks, and Respiratory Health Talks.

For Date, Time, & Event Locations

Visit the CWP Events Page, by scanning the QR code below with your smart phone, or give us a call at

1.877.335.0779



Be sure to also check your emails and mailbox for official invitations throughout the year.

PCM Senior Case Manager Spotlight



MARGARET BAIER, BSN, RN

I grew up in mining towns in Nevada and Colorado as my father was a geological engineer. Due to his working conditions, his health deteriorated. I began to research assistance programs and helped him to receive his U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) medical benefits white card. I was fortunate to also find Professional Case Management (PCM) and signed him up for in-home health care. Soon after, I started my nursing career with PCM and worked as one of his nurses, about nine years ago. After he passed, I continued as a skilled nurse with the company then became a Case Manager on the Western Slope of Colorado. Today, I have the privilege of working as a Senior Case Manager. Since I grew up in the uranium mining community, I have a great passion to see these workers get the personalized care they need. It is my honor to help all the clients, Case Managers and Caregivers on the Western Slope and serve this great community.



MENDI HARTING, RN, SCM

I've been a Registered Nurse for 31 years. I worked for more than 17 years in a children's hospital before moving from Michigan to South Carolina. I started with PCM as a staff nurse over nine years ago. In 2016, I became a Case Manager, and in 2019, I became a Senior Case Manager. I feel honored and privileged to take care of these clients who have sacrificed so much for our country.



VALERIE WARD, RN

I grew up in Knoxville, TN and have been a nurse since 2009. My PCM career began in 2010 as a night shift nurse, and I have changed roles several times since then. In almost 14 years with PCM, I worked closely with the best team of nurses and clients, and I am forever grateful to have found my way to my PCM family. As the Case Manager for one of my clients for more than 10 years, I am so proud to manage and be a part of his care team that allows him to be at home with family. It has been an honor and privilege working with these brave nuclear weapons and uranium workers over the last 14 years, and I hope to continue providing them with the best in-home nursing care for many years to come.

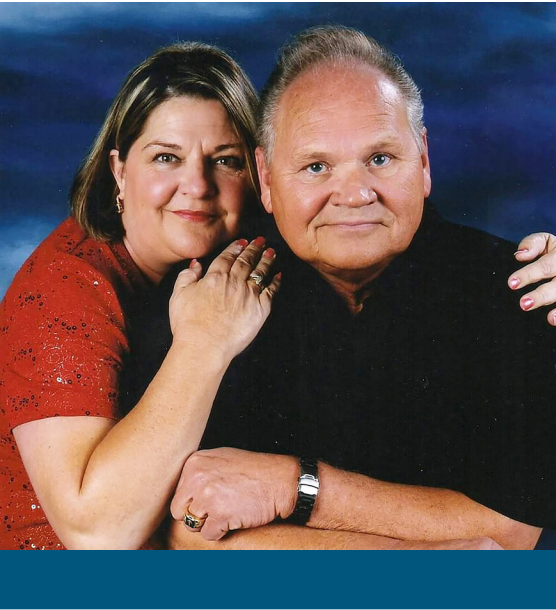


HOLLY R. WURTH, RN

I've been with PCM for more than 12 years. I started as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and worked my way up to Senior Case Manager. My dad worked at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) for 40 years and is a current PCM client. Many friends and family have worked and still work at the plant. I've lived in Paducah my entire life. Working at PCM gives me the opportunity, knowledge, and resources to help many people within the community receive the benefits they have earned and continue to assist them after receiving those benefits.



Clients Advocate for Fellow Workers with Similar Conditions



Calvin and Lisa worked at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (A-Plant) site in Scioto Township, Pike County, Ohio for 20 years. Both are Cold War Patriots (CWP) members and have worked with nuclear weapons workers to help them find and receive the benefits they have earned.

Lisa and Calvin began their advocacy journey when Calvin was diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer following his diagnosis of bilateral sensorial hearing loss (BSHL) with tinnitus and vertigo. When Calvin started speaking with former members of his Special Response Team (SRT), he and Lisa noted almost all the men who had BSHL also had prostate cancer. Lisa began documenting the illnesses and cancers of the team members and noted there was a statistical anomaly in the incidence of illnesses in that department.

They contacted Dr. Michelle Morone, Director of the Environmental Health and Sciences department at Ohio University. Dr. Morone was very knowledgeable about the A-Plant site and agreed to look at the material that had been compiled. Dr. Morone and her team then conducted extensive research which was peer reviewed and published. They found that trichloroethylene, the same chemical that caused BSHL, was also a known carcinogen and specifically known to cause prostate cancer.

Calvin and many of his team members had previously filed for prostate cancer, under radiological exposures, and had been denied by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Armed with this new evidence, Calvin contacted the advocate organization Energy Employee Advocates (EEA) to reopen his case. With the new letter of causation and the published study, Calvin was successful in the new adjudication of his case with the U.S. DOL. Calvin and Lisa are informing men who have BSHL to be diligent in having their Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) levels checked, as many cancers may begin as prostate cancer and, if undetected, may metastasize to other parts of the body. There are now several former SRT personnel working with EEA to have their claims reopened.

Calvin and Lisa are grateful for the excellent care and management of their illnesses that they have received from Professional Case Management (PCM) since 2021. PCM's mission is to bring hope, healing, and the highest level of quality care directly to workers—all in the comfort of their homes. CWP is here to help navigate programs related to EEOICPA and RECA, and can connect workers to resources, advocates like EEA, and other partners.

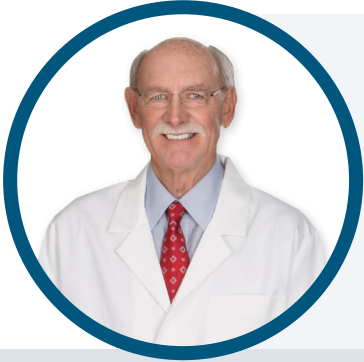
TO LEARN MORE

Call our CWP Outreach Help Center at 877.335.0779

Monday – Friday
7:00 AM – 5:00 PM (MST)

Email us at info@coldwar patriots.org

PCM | IMPAIRMENTS CORNER



As the saying goes, *the only constant in life is change*—and at PCM Impairments, that couldn't be more true. Our beloved Dr. Norman Walton has retired after decades of clinical practice and the facilitation of impairment evaluations. He spent almost six and a half years working with PCM Impairments, serving the nuclear weapons and uranium worker community with care and compassion. *We want to thank Dr. Walton for all his hard work and wish him the utmost happiness in his retirement.*

Pictured (left): **Dr. Norman Walton**

With Dr. Walton's departure, we are happy to announce that Dr. Craig Heligman of Kansas City, MO begins working with PCM Impairments this spring. Dr. Heligman has a wealth of experience in employee health and occupational medicine, dating back thirty years. Most recently, for the past ten years he was the chief medical officer at CSX Transportation. Prior to that, he spent eight years at Kansas City Southern Railway as their contracted chief medical officer. *We are grateful to bring his impairment expertise to our team.*



Pictured (right): **Dr. Craig Heligman**

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?

**Let us get you on the right track today!
Call us at 866.578.2580 to speak with a PCM Impairment Navigator.**