

Chronic Beryllium Disease (CBD) - Awareness

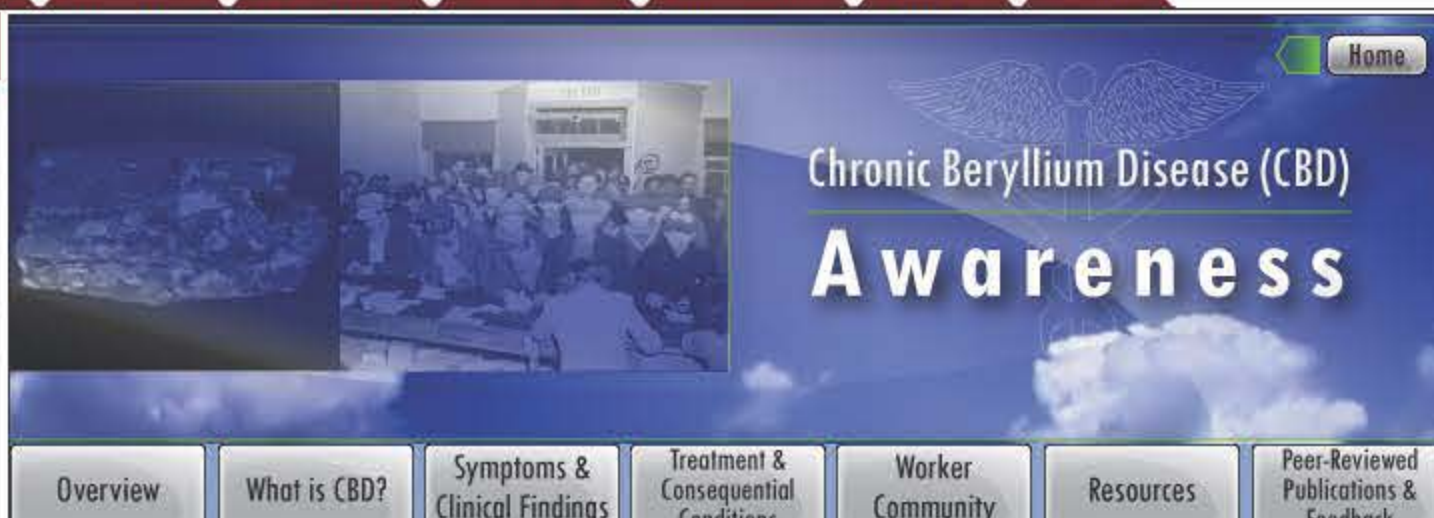
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Overview

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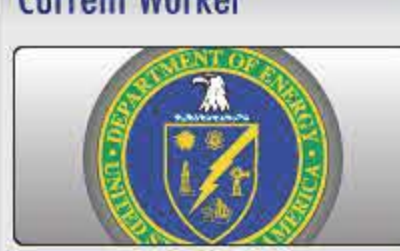
This section is intended to provide information and resources to assist DOE Former Workers and Current Workers with basic information on medical screening, surveillance, and to provide answers to key questions. **It is also important that if it is determined that a condition is related to CBD, that the proper diagnosis is made, because it may impact eligibility and coverage under compensation programs and insurances.**



How do I get started?

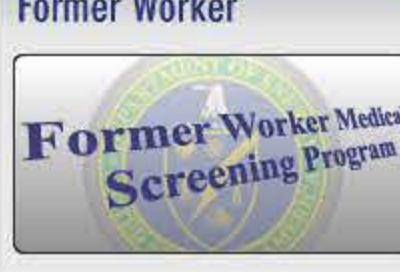
In a national effort to identify current and former workers who have CBD or are sensitized to beryllium and to better understand the illness, DOE has set up a number of medical screening/surveillance and research programs for both current and former workers.

Current Worker



Workers who are currently employed at a DOE site can obtain more detailed information about beryllium surveillance programs by **contacting the occupational medicine department** at the site.

Former Worker



The DOE, through its Office of Health, Safety and Security, sponsors **free beryllium screening for former workers from all DOE sites**. Participation in the program is voluntary. If you choose to participate, you will be asked to give your written consent to pursue screening, complete a questionnaire about your work history, and some general health-related questions. You can obtain more information about the Former Worker Screening Programs by clicking **here**.

[➔ Medical Facilities with Experience Evaluating Chronic Beryllium Disease](#)

FAQ's

Medical Expenses

Individuals having one or more abnormal BeLPT may file a claim with the Department of Labor (DOL) under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). If the claim is accepted, DOL will pay for medical evaluation and testing related to beryllium disease. DOL Resource Centers are available around the U.S. to assist workers with applying for claims under EEOICPA.

Twelve (12) resource centers help employees and families file for benefits under the EEOICPA. A list of resource centers can be located at the U.S. Department of Labor's web site or you may contact a center by dialing a number provided below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Anchorage, Alaska (888) 654-0014 ■ Idaho Falls, Idaho (800) 861-8608 ■ Espanola, New Mexico (866) 272-3622 ■ North Augusta, South Carolina (866) 666-4606 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Livermore, California (866) 606-6302 ■ Paducah, Kentucky (866) 534-0599 ■ Amherst, New York (800) 941-3943 ■ Oak Ridge, Tennessee (866) 481-0411 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Westminster, Colorado (866) 540-4977 ■ Las Vegas, Nevada (866) 697-0841 ■ Portsmouth, Ohio (866) 363-6993 ■ Richland, Washington (888) 654-0014
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U.S. Department of Labor Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA)

What is the frequency of BeLPT testing?

Medical experts believe that the BeLPT shows abnormal results in individuals who have become "sensitized" to beryllium and that sensitization is the first step to getting CBD. Studies have shown that practically all individuals with CBD also are sensitized. On the other hand, many individuals that are sensitized to beryllium do not have CBD. Sensitization means that the person was exposed to beryllium and that his or her body has become hypersensitive. It means that an individual is more likely than others to get CBD, but the individual may never get CBD or may get a mild case of CBD, especially if the individual's exposure was low.

Medical experts recommend that persons who are currently working with or around beryllium have the BeLPT blood test every year. It is recommended that current workers who have worked with or around beryllium in the past but who no longer work with beryllium have the BeLPT every 3 years. If symptoms of CBD develop, BeLPT testing along with a rigorous medical evaluation should be done as soon as possible to establish a diagnosis. You may be eligible to receive retesting through the appropriate DOE medical screening program.

When can I stop being tested?

Medical experts believe that people who are no longer working with beryllium and have had 2-3 normal BeLPTs at three year intervals are most likely not sensitized to beryllium. Experts also believe that those individuals who have been sensitized will have been identified by then and should get regular follow-up evaluations to watch for symptoms that may need treatment. If you develop symptoms that might be related to CBD, have concerns about having CBD symptoms, or have a respiratory condition that your physician cannot diagnose, your physician may have you take a BeLPT test.

Additional Information & Resources

For additional information and resources please click [here](#).

This page was last updated on February 29, 2012