

# Welcome

# Chronic Beryllium Disease (CBD) Awareness



**Enter**

## CBD Informational Card

**HSS** Chronic Beryllium Disease Awareness

Ask your physician about beryllium toxicity if you may have been occupationally exposed to beryllium and have a chronic respiratory disorder that has lasted more than 3 months, with any of the following:

**Symptoms**

- 1. Cough
- 2. Shortness of breath
- 3. Fatigue
- 4. Night Sweats

In addition, if you have been diagnosed with any of the following conditions, you should consider an evaluation for Chronic Beryllium Disease (CBD):

**Clinical Conditions**

- 1. Enlarged lymph nodes (adenopathy) seen on Chest X-ray or CT scan
- 2. Scarring on both lungs (chronic infiltrates) on Chest X-ray or CT scan, called "chronic bilateral pulmonary infiltrates"
- 3. Lung or skin biopsy reports of granulomatous inflammation
- 4. Prior diagnosis of chronic skin or pulmonary sarcoidosis

**Beryllium Sensitization**

Patients who have been diagnosed with "Beryllium Sensitization" (allergic allergy) are asymptomatic and not physically impaired but are at increased risk for the development of CBD. See above.

Should you and your physician want more in-depth information, please visit the following link: <http://www.hss.doe.gov/healthSafety/hsps/ado/cbd/>

**FRONT**

**HSS** Chronic Beryllium Disease Awareness

If you have already been diagnosed with CBD, there are a number of consequential diseases that may result from CBD, some of which include:

- 1. Car. Pulmonale
- 2. Pulmonary Hypertension
- 3. Respiratory Failure
- 4. Beryllium Dermatitis/Skin Rash/Sores
- 5. Anxiety and Depression

In most patients with CBD, immunosuppressive medications can stop the progression of the disease and in some cases reverse the abnormalities. Some of these include oral or inhaled corticosteroids, bronchodilators, methotrexate, azathioprine, mycophenolate mofetil, and anti-TNF-alpha inhibitors.

Medications that are used to treat CBD can cause certain consequential conditions or can aggravate other pre-existing medical conditions. If you are being treated for CBD, ask your doctor how the medication might affect you. Consequential conditions of CBD treatment can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1. Infection
- 2. Anxiety and Depression
- 3. Diabetes and Related Consequences
- 4. Hypertension
- 5. Osteoporosis
- 6. Glaucoma
- 7. Cataracts
- 8. Hypertension
- 9. Incontinence
- 10. Gastroesophageal Reflux Disorder
- 11. Weight Gain and Obesity

Early and accurate diagnosis of CBD and related conditions is important in providing an effective treatment.

Should you and your physician want more in-depth information, please visit the following link: <http://www.hss.doe.gov/healthSafety/hsps/ado/cbd/>

**BACK**

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS), welcome to the Chronic Beryllium Disease (CBD) Awareness Web site. The primary audience for the CBD Awareness Web site is: (1) former and current DOE Federal and contractor workers; (2) practicing clinicians; and (3) health care educators and researchers. The CBD Awareness Web site was developed as the result of a partnership between HSS, workers, labor organizations, and the occupational medicine community.

The CBD Awareness Web site is part of HSS' corporate outreach initiative to provide information to the worker community, as well as the medical community, and to enhance the likelihood of timely diagnosis and treatment of potential CBD cases. The main driver for this effort is the concern associated with the potential difficulties experienced by beryllium-sensitized or CBD victims in receiving appropriate medical care within medical communities that may lack specific training in the care of beryllium-affected patients. The medical community at large does not generally encounter cases of CBD or have extensive knowledge of the disease, and as such does not often generate medical documentation that adequately captures the relationship between the presenting illness (i.e., a secondary effect or consequential condition of CBD or its treatment) with the underlying condition of CBD.

It is with deep appreciation that we commend the extraordinary dedication and commitment of the beryllium-affected workers who have tirelessly worked with us to help others.

The CBD information card displayed on the left side is an easy-to-carry pocket reference for former/current workers to share with their primary physicians. Please be aware that the information presented in the CBD Awareness Web site is intended as a general information resource. It is neither intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice and the care provided by your physician. **CALL YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IMMEDIATELY IF YOU THINK YOU MAY HAVE A MEDICAL EMERGENCY.** Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider prior to starting any new treatment or with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition. For further information, please contact the DOE Office of Health and Safety at (301) 903-5926.



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