

Understanding COPD and Your EEOICPA Benefits

Respiratory illnesses are one of the most common conditions experienced by former energy workers. In this issue of CareBeat, we are looking at what you need to know about COPD and your EEOICPA Benefits.

What is Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)?

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a progressive lung disease that makes it difficult to breathe. EEOICPA includes COPD under Part E to ensure that DOE employees, contractors, and subcontractors exposed to toxic substances and asbestos receive the compensation they deserve for illnesses resulting from their work environment.

Part E of EEOICPA and Compensation

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) provides compensation for Department of Energy (DOE) employees, including contractors and subcontractors. Under Part E of EEOICPA, compensation is available if it's at least as likely as not that exposure to a toxic substance at a DOE facility significantly contributed to, aggravated, or caused the employee's illness.

Understanding Impairment Ratings & Your Benefits

Every two years, you are eligible for a review of your impairment rating and an increase in your benefits and compensation. Your impairment rating measures any decrease in function due to a medical condition and directly correlates to the amount of compensation you receive under Part E.

In addition to compensation, individuals with respiratory conditions such as COPD, emphysema, bronchitis, asbestosis and other chronic conditions are eligible for additional home health care and support including supplies like oxygen and inhalers as well as reimbursement for travel and care to medical specialists. You want to make sure to stay on top of your impairment ratings to benefit from all the care and support you are eligible for.

Consider Consequential Illnesses

In addition to monitoring your impairment rating, you'll want to talk with your doctor about any illnesses you have that may be related to your COPD. For example, sleep apnea, anxiety and even diabetes can be associated with a respiratory disease. These consequential illnesses may be covered for treatment under your DOL benefits.

Benefits of Home Health Care for Patients with COPD

With a progressive illness like COPD, home health care can play a pivotal role in helping you stay as healthy as possible at home. COPD patients have a higher propensity to suffer from bronchitis or pneumonia which can often lead to hospitalization. Your home care nurse is monitoring your lung function and other symptoms so you can address changes early and avoid more serious illness.

We're Here To Help

Your CNS Care Team is here to help you understand and navigate all aspects of the EEOICPA program and we can help connect your physician to right resources to support them in meeting the DOL requirements and help you access all the care and benefits you have earned.

Call us at 1-877-259-9001 or visit [CNSCares.com](https://www.CNSCares.com)