

ATOMIC

HEALTH NEWS

for Department of Energy,
Atomic Weapons Employees
& Uranium workers

Atomic Site Feature

Pinellas Plant

Real Workers, Real Stories

Paul & Kitty

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FORMER
ATOMIC
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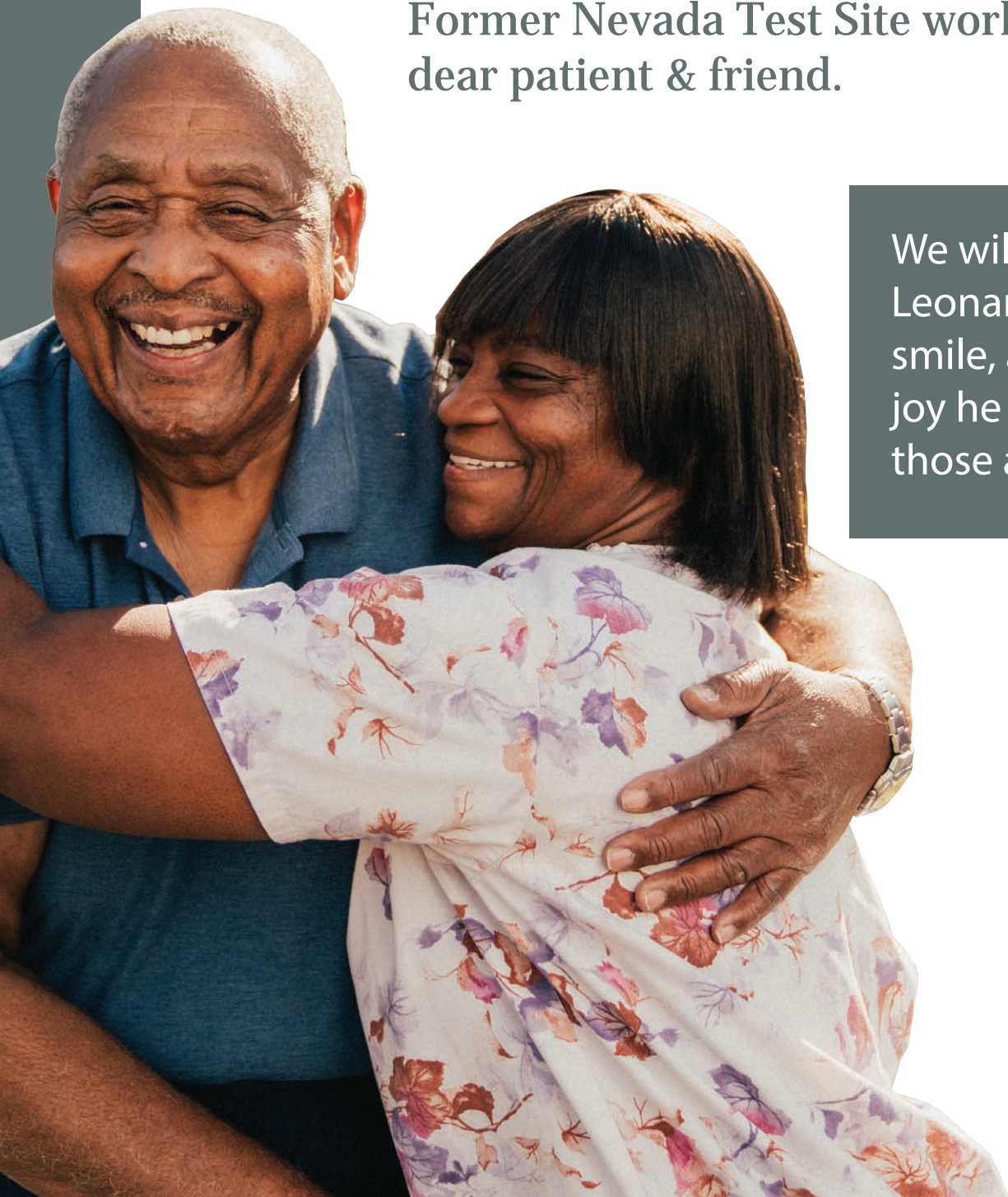


About the Cover:

In loving memory of Leonard T.

Former Nevada Test Site worker,
dear patient & friend.

We will dearly miss
Leonard's laughter,
smile, and the true
joy he brought to
those around him.



Meet Paul



My name is Paul

and I used to work as a construction pipefitter out of Pasco, Washington. I worked a lot in DOE sites and construction sites. For the most part I really enjoyed my construction years — it was my dream job.

But I was around all this radiation, contamination, chemicals, dust, asbestos, you name it.

When they first found something I was working out at Hanford. We did a physical test and for me it was chemicals and both of my kidneys went out at the same time. The next thing you know I was on dialysis 7 days a week, 8 hours every single day until I got a kidney transplant.

Later on I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and they started me on chemotherapy drugs. My wife was in a panic mode, as I was going through all of this treatment. She felt so helpless because she wasn't able to do anything.

“

During the time of dialysis, during the time of the cancer treatments, and during the time of the bone marrow transplant were 3 different times that I almost died.

”





*Paul enjoying a stroll
in his orchard*



*Paul enjoys music
and plays the drums*

She felt better about having someone come out here and check on me at least a couple times a week. I saw Nuclear Care Partners on the TV and I called them up.

Sherry [my nurse] is just a joy to have out here. She really knows what she's doing and she really cares about what I had to say. I'm doing much much better than I was before.

I got back into the music again.



Paul with his nurse, Sherry

*“ And I thank God that, wow, I’m alive
and I’m able to see my grandkids.
”*

I highly recommend Nuclear Care Partners.
They're easy to work with, they're very caring,
and they know what they're doing.

Watch the video of Paul sharing his story &
meet some of our other patients!

Visit
NuclearCarePartners.com/our-patients



Rose "Kitty" Houston

"My husband called me Kitty. He said if everything was going my way I'd purr like a cat and if it wasn't I'd hiss at you!"

My favorite part about living in Las Vegas was the people I worked with. The DOE had just built a farm where we would give the cows radioactive material and then we would test to see where the radioactive material would go.

Mostly I worked with men. They thought they were breaking me in the hard way and they sent me down to collect the water out of the pond. When they were doing it they would wear waders. They went to watch me to see what I was going to do and I just tied the rope on the bucket and threw it out and got the water and brought it in. They said "why didn't we ever think of that!" That was the fun part of working with the men.

When you've always been able to stand on your own two feet and all of a sudden your feet get knocked out from under you, it's a big blow.

One of the main things about Nuclear Care Partners is their encouragement and their willingness to help me. They don't make me feel bad about asking for help.

About the best way I can explain it is they help me up. When life knocks me down they help me up."

In loving memory of Rose "Kitty" Houston

Visit **NuclearCarePartners.com/our-patients** to watch a video of Kitty telling her story

Thank You *Healthcare Workers*

Here at Nuclear Care Partners, our mission is centered on providing exceptional care to one of the most vulnerable populations, our nation's former nuclear weapons workers. As our patients battle various chronic illnesses and cancer, putting them in the high-risk category for COVID-19, we offer our heartfelt thanks to the dedicated healthcare heroes across our country who are saving lives and keeping our patients and our communities safe.

To all of our healthcare workers...

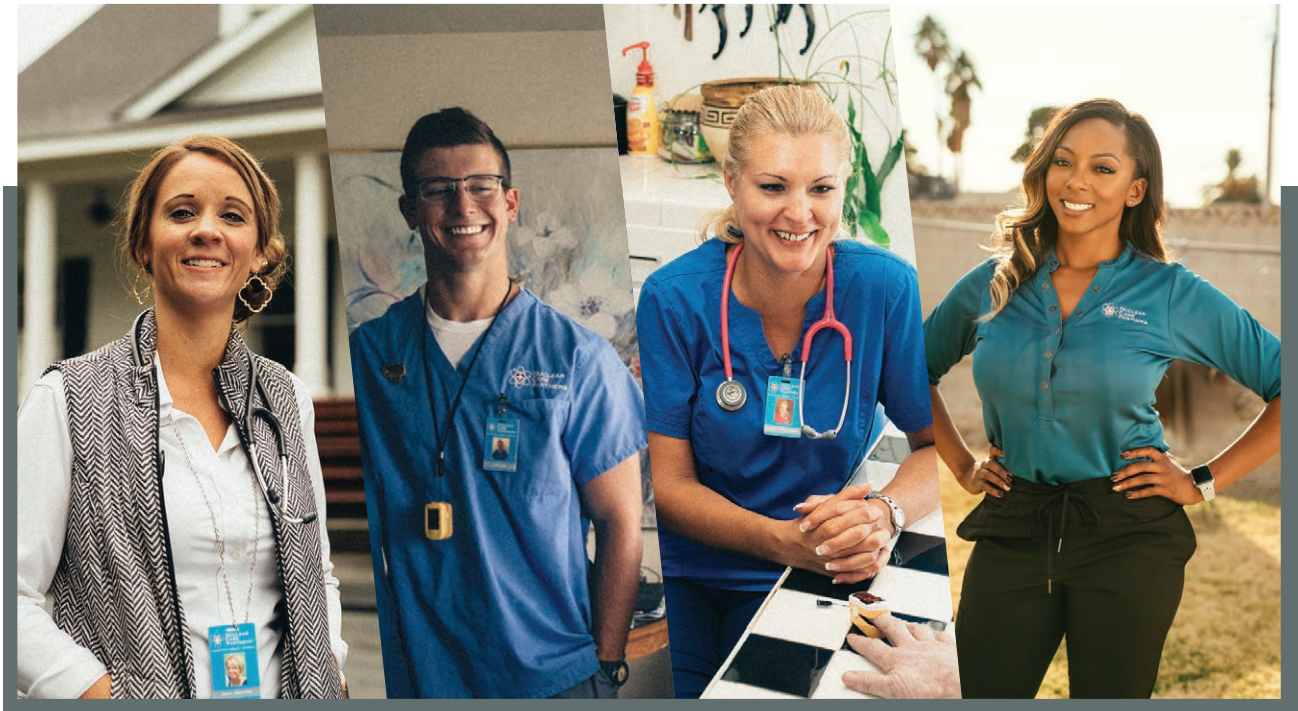
Thank you for your courage to care.

Thank you for working around the clock to save lives.

Thank you for holding the hands of those we love.

Thank you for continuing to be there when we need you.

Thank you for the countless sacrifices you continue to make.



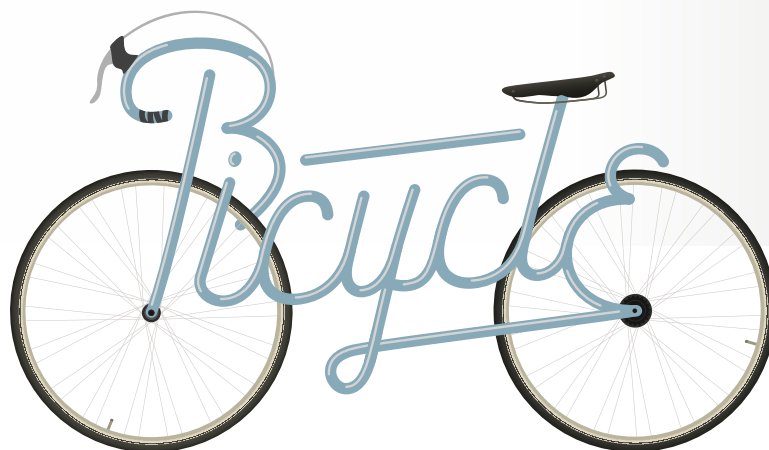
We have seen how much you care. We have seen how strongly you persevere. We have seen how you keep your spirits up amid incredibly trying times. And we have seen how you continue to show up every single day ready to save lives, despite being completely exhausted.

We know you have felt fear, frustration, guilt, stress, sadness, and so many other heavy emotions. But we have also seen your incredible determination, joy, and kind hearts.

Thank you for sacrificing so much to save the lives of so many. We are truly moved by your courage, selflessness, kindness, and bravery. You inspire us with hope in a time we need it most.

So, to all of our dedicated healthcare heroes... thank you!

*I want
to ride
my*



I first started caring for Michael in February of 2018. He welcomed me into his home and we really hit it off from that very first moment.

Michael had been diagnosed with pneumoconiosis and sleep apnea due to his work exposure working as a painter at the Nevada Test Site. He needed a lot of help and I was happy to care for him and help such a sweet man.

*“Michael was more than a **patient** to me, he was like **family**.”*

Michael was always my last patient of the day, and one day he told me “I’m pretty hungry can we get something to eat?” So his partner Diana went and got some food and from that moment on we shared countless meals. I truly don’t even know how many times we ate together. That’s where we began to get really close.

I started sharing in the things Michael was interested in—he was a junkie for music, car shows, guns, and so many other things. As I learned more about him and he learned more about me, we became dear friends.

Michael even developed a special relationship with my oldest son, Johnny. When he met Johnny, they instantly bonded over their love for guitars (my son is a wonderful guitar player) and Johnny became almost like Michael’s son.

Back when I first met Michael, I asked him what he liked to do and what his goals were and he told me “I want to be able to ride my bike.” I had to do a short stint of work in Pahrump, Nevada and while I was gone, one of our nurses, Ellen, took incredible care of him. Even while I was gone, he and I stayed close. When I returned, I told him “we’re going to get you on that bike.”



*In Loving
Memory of
Michael C.*

*A dear patient
and kind friend.*

And after almost an entire year of building his strength and his confidence, Michael rode his bike.

So we started with Michael picking out his own bike—he was very particular about the kind of bike he wanted. And from there it was baby steps, every day.

We started with him just walking with the bike, straddling it. Then kept walking outside to get him stronger and stronger. The whole neighborhood was very close and they would see me running alongside him as he practiced, almost like he was a child learning for the first time.



And after almost an entire year of building his strength and his confidence, Michael rode his bike. It was one of the most memorable days of my life. Michael was laughing and smiling, truly beaming. He was in a place where he had kind of given up and never really left his home, so to see him up on that bike riding down the street with a grin from ear to ear, it was truly a once in a lifetime moment.

My heart broke this last winter when we lost Michael unexpectedly. After a very strenuous pulmonary function test, Michael endured a stroke which took him to rehab where he had to relearn how to walk. While in rehab he contracted COVID-19 and that is what took him from us. It broke my heart as I know he had always been so careful to stay safe.

I miss Michael dearly, and I still think of him often, but I take comfort in knowing that he is at peace and no longer has any problems. I know he is watching over me and my family and I'm just so grateful for him because he was so good to me.

Michael was an incredible man. He loved people for where they were at, he never judged anybody, and he was so kind. The whole time I knew him he never said a bad word about anyone, and that's something I take with me.

I truly don't do this job for the money. I do it because of the relationships and the fun I get to have with my patients. To me, that is something you just can't put a price tag on.

I'll never forget, after Michael passed his sister thanked me for being his nurse, and I remember saying, "I was more than just his nurse. I was his friend." It was so much more to me than simply providing care to him as a nurse and I will cherish him, along with all of my other patients, forever.



Michael and Johnny

Told by Elizabeth Curley, RN & Field Case Manager

PINELLAS PLANT

From DOE defense manufacturing facility to commercial technology center

<http://www.nuclearworkersflorida.org/about/about.htm>

The Pinellas Plant is located in Largo, Florida, about 10 miles north-northwest of St. Petersburg and across Tampa Bay from the city of Tampa.

In 1956, General Electric Corporation (GE) built the original 161,000 square-foot facility on 96 acres which had formerly been Bryan's Dairy Farm. The primary mission of the plant was to produce neutron generators that were used to initiate nuclear explosions for the nation's nuclear weapons program. These unique components contain compact linear particle accelerators which produce high-energy neutrons by fusing isotopes of hydrogen together.

In 1957, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) purchased the Pinellas Plant from General Electric and awarded a 25-year operating contract to GE.

The Pinellas Plant continued to engineer, develop, and manufacture components, such as neutron generators, for the U.S. nuclear weapons program. The Department of Energy (DOE) eventually expanded the plant's mission to include the design, development, and production of a variety of electronic and mechanical nuclear weapons components, including:

- Ultra-clean, high-vacuum technologies
- Alumina ceramics, cement (electrical) feedthroughs, and glass ceramics
- Active and reserve battery technologies
- Specialized electronic components such as lightning arrester connectors, crystal resonators, and shock transducers
- Equipment for generating and measuring high voltages
- Test and process control equipment
- And much more

In 1994, the Pinellas Plant stopped producing nuclear weapons-related components and refocused its mission on environmental management. The DOE then sold the facility to the Pinellas County Industrial Council in 1995. The sales contract included clauses to ensure continued compliance with federal, state, and local regulations while DOE remediated the site. The DOE completed cleanup of the site in December of 1997.

On July 1, 1999, the Pinellas County Industrial Council was dissolved and ownership of the facility, now called the Young-Rainey Science, Technology, and Research (STAR) Center, changed to the Pinellas County government.

The Young-Rainey STAR Center is the nation's first successful conversion from a DOE defense manufacturing facility to a commercial technology center.

The STAR Center currently houses more than 30 businesses that provide collaborative opportunities for each other in the areas of analytical and environmental testing, custom hybrid micro-electronics, circuit design and manufacturing, forensic sciences, and more.



MP 320 Neutron Generator

Sources

GlobalSecurity.org
DOE.gov
Stephens & Stephens
<https://www.thermofisher.com/order/catalog/product/1517021A#/1517021A>



SEC

Special Exposure Cohort: What You Need to Know

The Department of Labor's EEOICPA established the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) for certain classes of employees. The SEC allows eligible claimants to be compensated without the completion of a radiation dose reconstruction by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and without determination of the probability of causation.

To qualify for compensation as a member of an SEC class, you must meet the following two requirements:

- You must have at least one of the 22 SEC specified cancers.
- You must have worked for a specific period of time at one of the SEC work sites.

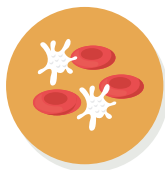


Larry, Former Uranium Miner

What are the 22 specified cancers covered under the SEC?



Bone cancer



Leukemia

(provided the onset of the disease was at least two years after first exposure)



Renal cancers



Lung cancer

(other than in-situ lung cancer that is discovered during or after a post-mortem exam)

The following diseases provide onset was at least five years after first exposure:

Multiple myeloma

Lymphomas

(other than Hodgkin's disease)

Primary cancer of the:

Bile ducts

Brain

Breast *(female)*

Breast *(male)*

Colon

Esophagus

Gallbladder

Liver *(except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated)*

Ovary

Pancreas

Pharynx

Salivary gland

Small intestine

Stomach

Thyroid

Urinary bladder

**View a current listing of
all SEC work sites at:**

www.dol.gov/agencies/owcp/energy/regs/compliance/law/SEC-Employees

or

www.cdc.gov/niosh/ocas/ocassec.html

**We can help you
determine if you qualify
for compensation as a
member of an SEC class!**

800.295.5846

After the FILING PROCESS

You've completed the benefits filing process, now what?

You are not alone in your journey with your EEOICPA benefits. Here at Nuclear Care Partners, we walk alongside you every step of the way—supporting you, advocating for you, and serving you, even after you've received your DOL White Card!

Once you have completed the filing process for EEOICPA benefits and received your DOL White Card, we can continue to help you in a variety of ways. We can help you...

- **Understand how to use your card to access & maximize your benefits**
- **Receive the highest quality in-home care from our care teams**
- **Find medical vendors for your approved diagnosis**
 - Including pharmacy delivery services, durable medical equipment vendors, and more
- **Get connected with our specialty programs**
- **And much more**

Plus!
**Check out our specialty programs
created specifically for former
atomic workers!**



Charles, Former Savannah River Site Worker

*Already received your white card and awaiting approval to receive care?
On services with another care provider?*

This program is for you!



This program will help you monitor your health & provide you with a variety of resources related to your EEOICPA health benefits while you await being approved to receive care.

“

“I love John and the Health Watch calls. They do a wonderful job communicating with me and giving me all the information and help I need with my benefits. John even told me about how I can get safety equipment for my shower with my white card to keep me from falling or hurting myself. My experience has been really great, they’re like family to me now.”

- Tanya W.

”

Is your loved one providing care for you while you are in the process of filing for benefits?

This program is for you!



This program will guide your caregiver through the basics of what it means to be a family caregiver and provide them with the education and support they need to care for you. *This program is also available to non-white cardholders.

“

“This program was great and really useful to me as a caregiver. It gave me different ways to problem solve some difficult situations and taught me coping skills that will be useful in the care of my family member.”

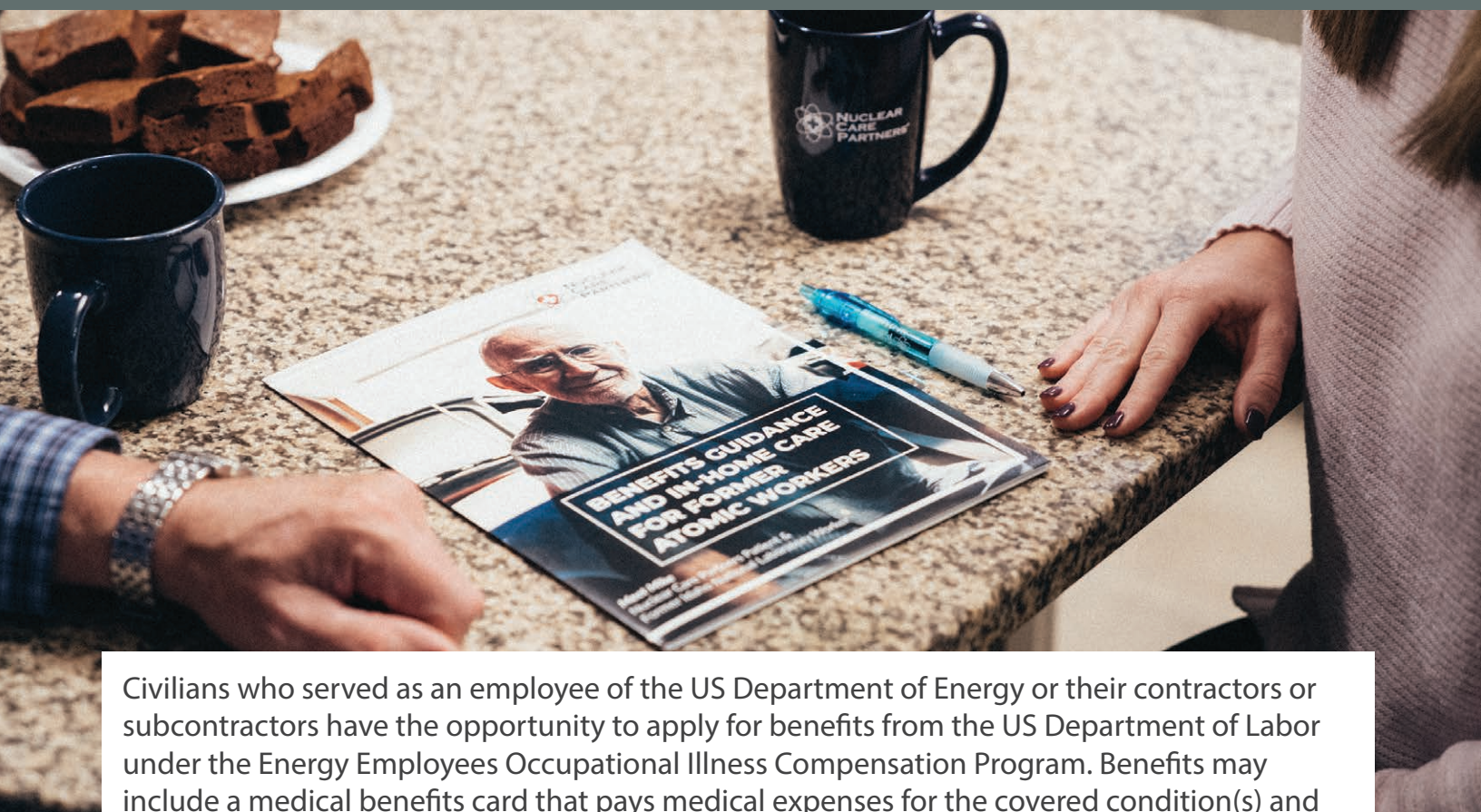
- Rosetta S.

”

*Want to learn more about our specialty programs?
Give us a call at **800.295.5846!***



ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT FILING FOR PART B & PART E



Civilians who served as an employee of the US Department of Energy or their contractors or subcontractors have the opportunity to apply for benefits from the US Department of Labor under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program. Benefits may include a medical benefits card that pays medical expenses for the covered condition(s) and home health services, and up to \$400,000 monetary compensation. The following are some answers to frequently asked questions about Part B and Part E claims.

If I have been diagnosed with cancer can I be awarded a medical benefits card and a monetary lump sum?

If you worked as an employee or contractor or subcontractor for the DOE or atomic weapons programs and were diagnosed with radiation-induced cancer you may file for and possibly be awarded a DOL Medical Benefits Card to pay your medical expenses (including home health care) related to your claimed condition(s). Additionally you can be paid a tax-free lump sum of \$150,000 under Part B and up to \$250,000 under Part E for impairment and wage loss benefits.

Is it worthwhile for me to be screened or checked by a doctor for Chronic Beryllium Disease?

Yes. If you worked for the DOE (or contractors, subcontractors) or certain beryllium vendors and developed Chronic Beryllium Disease you may qualify for the DOL Medical Benefits Card to pay medical expenses and home health care. Additionally, you can be paid a lump sum of \$150,000 under Part B and up to \$250,000 under Part E for impairment and wage loss benefits.

What if I never had radiation-induced cancer, Chronic Beryllium Disease, or chronic silicosis yet I was exposed to toxic substances at my work environment?

If your illness was not caused by radiation there is still a possibility you could be awarded benefits under Part E if your work environment included some toxins such as asbestos, cement, diesel exhaust, silica, solvents, welding fumes, wood dust and other toxins. There are a number of medical conditions that could qualify, such as lung diseases: COPD, pulmonary fibrosis, asbestosis, occupation asthma and other non respiratory conditions such as chronic kidney disease, encephalopathy, etc. Many cancers can also be accepted under Part E for exposure to toxic substances, such as kidney cancer, laryngeal cancer, ovarian cancer, skin cancer and more. Under Part E, you may qualify to be paid a lump sum up to \$250,000. The amount you would receive is based mostly on your level of impairment. Impairment is a decrease in the functioning of a body part or organ as it affects the whole body.

I worked in the tunnels in Nevada and have chronic silicosis, can I be awarded benefits?

If you worked at least 250 days during the mining of tunnels and underground nuclear weapons sites in Nevada or Alaska you may qualify for a DOL Medical Benefits card to pay for your medical expenses and home health care related to your claimed condition. You may also be paid \$150,000 in a lump sum under Part B and up to \$250,000 under Part E for impairment and wage loss.

The Claims Process Basics

The claim filing process starts by gathering medical records related to the medical condition(s) you are claiming. When all the required medical evidence is obtained the claim is filed by your advocate. An occupational history interview may be required shortly after the claim is filed. As the claim is being evaluated and adjudicated by the Department of Labor, there may be additional medical documentation or other documentation required to be approved for benefits. There will also be documents received that need to be filled out. Your advocate will fill out all documents for you until your payment form is received. This a multi-step process that can take 4 to 10 months to determine the awarding of benefits.

Written by an Independent Advocate for Energy & Nuclear Employees

**Nuclear Care Partners does not receive compensation for recommendation of Authorized Representatives.*



National Specialty Pharmacy (NSP) is a retail pharmacy dispensing traditional and compound medications. Based in Las Vegas, Nevada, we specialize in providing prescription fulfillment services to patients who are former atomic workers under Department of Labor (DOL) programs. We have been successfully working with DOL patients in the White Card program for over three years and have established streamlined processes that ensure efficient and accurate prescription fills for patients across the US.

Everyone involved in the patient care process starting with the patients themselves, to the caregivers, nurses, case managers and physicians quickly discover that having one central pharmacy focused on fulfilling their prescription needs, simplifies the process for all involved.

Our three full time pharmacists and dedicated DOL support team are able to oversee the management of these medications and give advice to a patient, practitioner or nurse for any interactions, over-prescribed medications, treatment options, etc.



Your Whole Family Wellness Partner

“After being diagnosed with chemo induced neuropathy, my podiatrist wrote me a prescription for a medicated compound cream to see if it would alleviate the numbness and burning in my legs and feet. After mentioning this to my nurse from Nuclear Care Partners, she told me about National Specialty Pharmacy which is approved and recognized by the Department of Labor. I’ve been having them fill my prescriptions for the past 6 months and taking advantage of their free delivery service. In addition, National Specialty Pharmacy will fill any other prescriptions; even those not covered by the Department of Labor. I’m very pleased with their courtesy and professionalism.” Robert Bodak

Contactless delivery and shipping

THE IMPORTANCE OF MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

Medication management is an important part of the overall treatment plan for individuals who take multiple medications to treat a disease or disorder. The management of medications makes use of the knowledge of nurses, doctors and home care agencies as well as caregivers and other health professionals involved in a patient’s care to make certain that the patient is obtaining the optimum benefits and best possible health outcomes from their medications.

Medication management is a type of outpatient treatment strategy that involves an initial evaluation of the patient’s need for their medication. Prescribed medications are carefully reviewed by a licensed medical professional, such as a pharmacist. The pharmacist will look closely for any potential side effects that each medication could cause. Some patients may also be taking medications that are no longer benefiting them or they may need a prescription for a particular medication that has not yet been prescribed. The pharmacist then makes these recommendations to the patient’s physician and caregiving team. *(continued...)*

After this initial evaluation of the patient's medications, all prescriptions and any over-the-counter medications should be monitored to ensure that any combination of medications or supplements are not having a negative interaction (polypharmacy). This also allows for monitoring of medications to ensure that they are not causing side effects and are not negatively affecting the patient's quality of life. The goal of medication management is to reduce unneeded medications and to strive for the healthiest treatment plan and best outcomes for the patient.

Stay home and let us deliver your medication directly to you

We are joining forces with Nuclear Care Partners in the following states, and many more.

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Georgia
Idaho
Iowa
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Nevada
New Mexico
Ohio
Oregon
Washington
Wyoming

NATIONAL
SPECIALTY PHARMACY

Please feel free to contact our pharmacy with any questions.

Pharmacy 855.557.6595

Get Connected & Maximize your EEOICPA Benefits

Your Local Community Outreach Manager can connect you with:

National Specialty Pharmacy

For pharmacy delivery services
(see above)

Durable Medical Equipment Vendors

For wheelchairs, walkers, CPAP machines, portable O2, and more.

And help you **maximize your benefits** to **get the most out of your white card!**

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