



ATOMIC HEALTH NEWS

for Department of Energy, Atomic
Weapons Employees & Uranium Workers

CELEBRATING 10 Years

Serving Former Atomic Workers

Atomic Site
Feature:
Pantex Plant

Ask the Experts

Know Your Numbers &
Impairment Ratings

— *Mike, Former Atomic Worker &
Nuclear Care Partners Patient*

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— John, Former Atomic Worker & NCP Patient



10 YEARS CELEBRATING

Serving Former Atomic Workers

The year 2021 holds such profound meaning for me as it marks 10 years that we've been serving former atomic workers, like you.

A decade ago, the dream to elevate the standard of care for our nation's atomic heroes came to fruition and Nuclear Care Partners (NCP) was officially born. And I have to say, looking back on these past 10 years, it's unbelievable to me how our initial calling to create a difference for just a handful of patients has grown from 2 employees (myself and our other co-founder) to over 1,000 NCP team members, from 1 location to serving former workers in 19 states across the country, and from serving a few patients to touching thousands of lives through our care services and outreach efforts.

I continue to be humbled and inspired by your stories—the stories of your dedication, bravery, service, and sacrifice in the nuclear weapons industry. It's the men and women we serve (YOU) who have made these past 10 years so special and it is truly an honor to serve you.

As you flip through these pages, I hope you'll feel the heartfelt gratitude all of us here at NCP have for you and for the work you did. Thank you for joining us in celebrating our 10th anniversary. **Cheers to 10 years!**

Jenna Noem, Co-Founder & CEO



“ I’ve been with NCP since they first started serving patients in Idaho. They’re wonderful. They help me and answer all of my questions—I feel so lucky to have them. ”

- Ken, Former INL Worker & NCP Patient



“ We think we’ll never get weak, but I realized that I needed to step back and accept the help that was being given to me. And I’m so glad I did. My nurses are magnificent, they treat me so well. They keep me stable and when they come into my home they help me with everything I need. ”

- Mary, Former NTS Worker & NCP Patient

Real Workers, Real Patients

“They are willing to go the extra mile to help me. They are passionate individuals, and I could tell they cared from the moment I met them. Being part of NCP I have been able to continue to fish and enjoy time with my family. It’s nice to know that I am part of the big happy NCP family.”

- Ted, Former NTS Worker & NCP Patient

“ Nuclear Care Partners has been a blessing to us. We’ve never had an experience like this. I know that I am blessed and thank God you found us. ”

- In loving memory of Vincent Circello, Former Atomic Worker & NCP Patient



“ I really appreciate all the help they give me and am so grateful for them. Even during the coronavirus, my nurse has been so great about wearing a mask and keeping me safe when she comes into my home. ”

- Gene, Former Savannah River Site Worker & NCP Patient





The **Best Decision** We Ever Made

Told by Ruth, wife & caregiver for her husband Bruce

“ My husband Bruce started in the atomic industry in 1974. He worked there for 26 years and retired in 2000. He had several different jobs—metallurgist, laborer, mechanic, maintenance mechanic, laundry worker, then went back and forth between maintenance and centrifuge equipment three different times. His starting pay was five dollars per hour but he ended up making almost twenty dollars per hour toward the end before he retired.

His exposure from his work caused him hearing loss, skin cancer, emphysema, COPD, and heart problems as a consequence of his COPD—he’s had a quadruple bypass. He now also has shortness of breath and fatigue with minimal exertion.

“ What I like about NCP is that we are a home team who works together. We can accomplish anything together. ”

When we first started with the other home care company we had a great case manager that we both liked. After she left, it was okay. We got a new case manager who worked in Kentucky across the river from Portsmouth, Ohio. We had only one staff meeting. As a family caregiver, I thought we should be having more meetings so we could learn about what is going on in the program and about the workers in the atomic industry.

There were many reasons why we switched companies. One reason why I wanted to switch was because the company didn’t do what I thought they should do. I was shorted on my paychecks and there were many times that there were issues with their computer and iPad that I had to do my progress notes on to document Bruce’s care.

We met Nuclear Care Partners (NCP) at some of their local events and they helped us through the process of switching companies and made us feel supported. The whole team was there for us. They would answer any questions we had.

The process of switching was well worth it!

What we liked about Nuclear Care Partners was that they helped Bruce with his white card and showed him a lot of things that can be done to help him with his health problems. Nick, the Ohio Community Outreach Manager, has been really helpful. Nick was on top of everything and has helped Bruce in every way that he can. The former company said that they could and would do the same, but why didn’t they do it?

Nuclear Care Partners is on top of everything and up to date with what is going on in the program. They are so professional and they are there to help people in any way they can with their health problems from



— Bruce & Ruth

working at the atomic energy plant. They also direct people in the right places for help.

Since switching, it has been great! There have been great changes for me. They take care of my employment taxes for me, I’m paid on time with direct deposit, and they’re so easy to get along with.

I like going to the company meetings because I learn a lot from them and am able to stay on top of what is going on. I like our case manager and the nurse, they are very helpful to us. As a caregiver, if you have any questions they will answer them for you, help train you, and call you back. The company is very good and friendly, and willing to work with you.

What I like about NCP is that we are a home team who works together. We can accomplish anything together.

Nuclear Care Partners is the best! I can tell you that I was on the fence about switching providers, but I’m so glad we switched and I wish we would’ve done it a long time ago. Best decision we ever made.

”

Pantex Plant

A look back at the history of Amarillo's nuclear site

1942

The Pantex Ordnance Plant is Built & Helps Win WWII

Built on 16,000 acres of land about 17 miles northeast of Amarillo, Texas, the Pantex Plant began as an Army Ordnance Corps facility in response to the nation's desperate need for munitions to fight World War II. Nine months after construction commenced, operations began at the plant.

The last of 14 bomb-loading ordnance plants constructed in Texas to support the war effort, Pantex produced nearly four million conventional bombs and artillery shells from 1942-1945.

On August 16, 1945, just one day after the Japanese surrender, the Pantex Ordnance Plant closed and its employees dispersed.

1951

Pantex Enters the Cold War Era

In 1951, as a new kind of war began to take place, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) reclaimed the land and formally re-established Pantex as a nuclear weapons assembly and production facility. The Plant played a central role in the Cold War, assembling thousands of nuclear warheads that helped maintain the strained relations between the Soviet Union and the United States.

As a cornerstone of the nuclear weapons complex, the Pantex mission evolved and grew as other facilities closed and responsibilities for modification, surveillance, assembly, and high explosives operations were moved to the site.

1988

DOE Rates Pantex 2nd Most Hazardous of its 16 Weapons Facilities

In 1988, alongside many other unfavorable environmental reports, the Department of Energy rated Pantex the second most hazardous of its sixteen weapons plants and laboratories. Cleanup was underway at this time for exposed asbestos and other substances. Underground storage tanks had leaked gasoline and an unlined pit had been used to dump solvents and other toxic substances. As Amarillo's largest employer at the time (with about 2,700 employees) the community began to place great pressure on Pantex to protect the environment.

Over the course of its operations, even through the present day, many workers have been exposed to various hazardous chemicals and toxic substances that may qualify them for benefits through the Department of Labor's EEOICPA.



In 1991, as the Cold War came to a conclusion, Pantex assembled its last nuclear weapon. An arms reduction agreement with Russia in June of 1992 meant that Pantex now had to focus its efforts on the disassembly of thousands of warheads each year.

From 1986 to 1996, Pantex disassembled over 12,000 warheads and in 1996 the plant had a stockpile of 9,000 plutonium pits and a growth rate of 1,200 pits a year. Pantex became the designated plutonium storage facility for the country after the DOE proposed an increase in the plant's plutonium storage from 12,000 to 20,000 pits. It was also selected as the site for the strategic reserve of plutonium for possible future use.

In 2000, the National Nuclear Security Administration was created by the DOE as an overseer of the Nuclear Weapons Complex, including Pantex. On February 1, 2001, BWXT Pantex, an independent association of BWX Technologies, Honeywell, and Bechtel, was awarded the contract for Pantex management and plant operations.

For nearly 30 years, since 1975, Pantex has been the country's primary facility for final assembly, disassembly, retrofit, and life-extension center for nuclear weapons. Today, the site continues its key role of ensuring the safety, security and reliability of the nation's nuclear stockpile.

The site's approximately 650 buildings consist of specialized facilities in which maintenance, modification, disassembly, and assembly operations are conducted. Pantex maintains its own water-treatment, sewage, and steam-generating plants, and its five wind turbines generate enough power to support more than 60 percent of the Plant's annual energy.

With more than 3,300 full-time staff members and an enduring mission to secure our country for decades to come, the legacy of the Pantex Plant strongly lives on.

Sources:

Pantex.Energy.Gov | TSHAOnline.Org | DSHS.Texas.GOV

1991

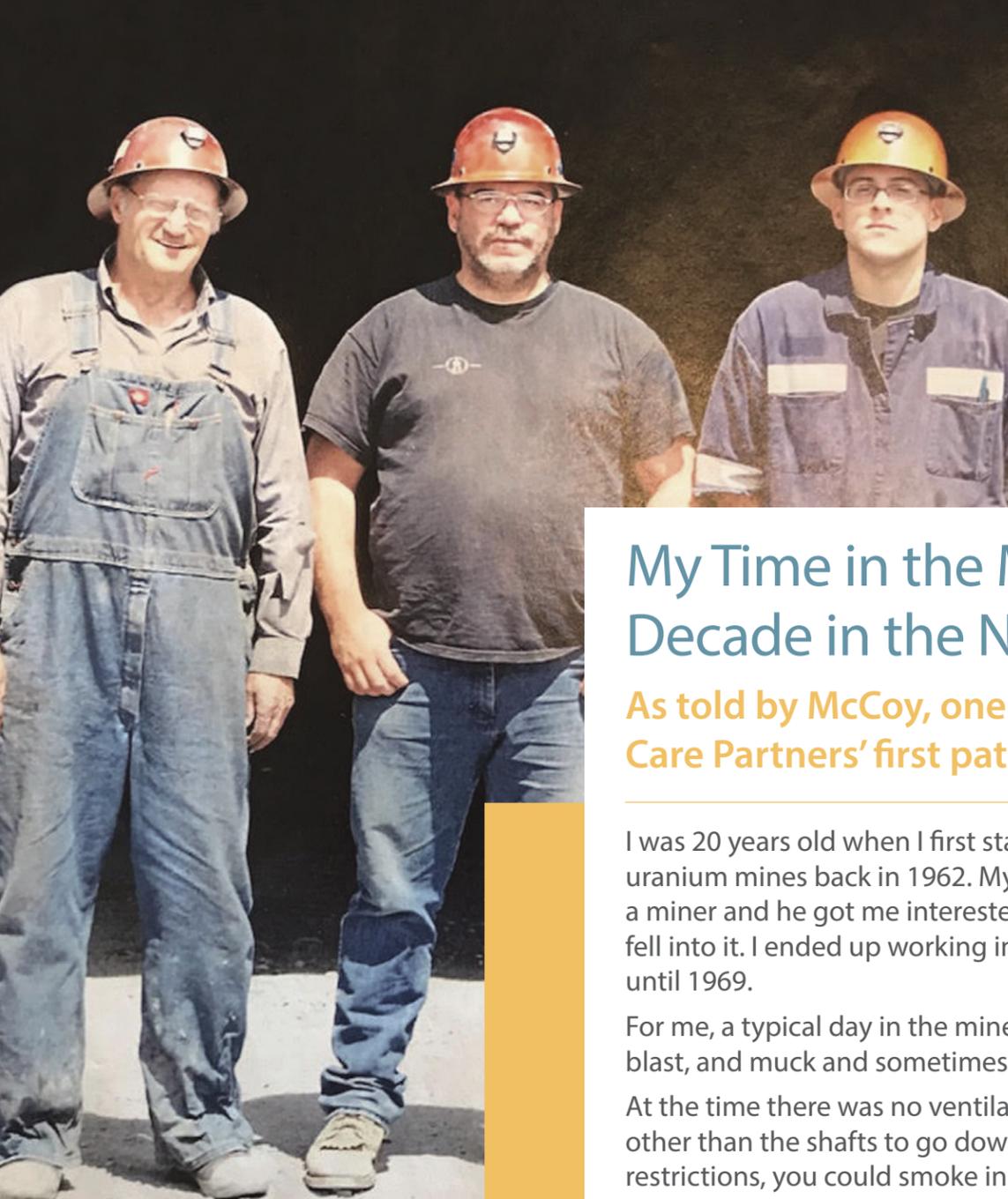
The End of the Cold War

Late 1990s & early 2000s

A Growing Stockpile of Plutonium Pits

Present

Day Pantex



My Time in the Mines & a Decade in the NCP Family

As told by McCoy, one of Nuclear Care Partners' first patients

I was 20 years old when I first started working in the uranium mines back in 1962. My father-in-law was a miner and he got me interested and I just kind of fell into it. I ended up working in the uranium mines until 1969.

For me, a typical day in the mines looked like drill, blast, and muck and sometimes hauling the ore out.

At the time there was no ventilation to speak of other than the shafts to go down. There weren't any restrictions, you could smoke in the heading or eat down there. They just didn't know how dangerous it was. Thankfully they've taken steps to help protect folks and better ventilate the mines since then.

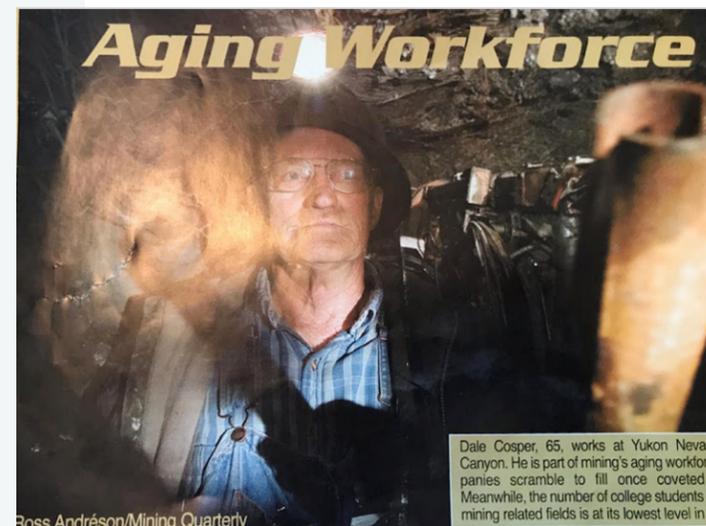
I really enjoyed the work and the 7 years I spent in the uranium mines in the Grants, New Mexico area.

From New Mexico we moved to Butte, Montana for 30 years and I worked underground in the copper mines out there. Then in 1991 I moved to Nevada, worked in Beatty in a gold mine, lived in Elko, Nevada, and now I have lived in Fallon, Nevada for about 6 years—which I enjoy because of the lower elevation and I can breathe a lot better.

Photo above: McCoy, his son Shawn, & his grandson Cody (left to right).

Photo top left facing page: McCoy featured on the cover of Mining Quarterly (photo taken underground in a mine in Elko, NV)

Photo top right facing page: McCoy & Charity O'Neal



I first started having respiratory problems back in the late 1980s or early 1990s, but I never thought that it could be linked to my time in the mines. I've since been diagnosed with pneumoconiosis due to silica dust, unspecified pneumoconiosis, and pulmonary fibrosis because of the exposure in the mines.

I got my DOL white card but I couldn't get any doctors to take the card or do a check up. I met the two co-founders of NCP at a table they had setup at a local event. I asked them how to go about getting my doctors to take the card. They explained to me how NCP could help. My interaction with them and how wonderful they were to me was how I got started and signed up with them back in 2011—the same year the company was founded. And a decade later, I'm still with the company.

At the time it was just the two co-founders, who are also nurses, and now the company has grown and grown. I feel blessed. They've really helped me along and having them care for me over the past decade has absolutely made a difference in my health and in my life.



Photo left: McCoy, his son Shawn, & his grandson Cody (right to left).

I'm especially grateful for Charity, my Field Case Manager. She was there right after I started with NCP and is real sweet. She's truly become part of the family. She helped me get my percussion machine—a vest that blows air that vibrates my lungs to help keep them clear. I now see her about every few months.



"The day when McCoy came into my life is the day my life changed completely," said Charity O'Neal, Field Case Manager with Nuclear Care Partners. "It has been amazing to be able to be a part of maintaining his health. I am truly blessed to be part of his life."

What's really special is that I have a son who is an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) and another son who is a family caregiver for me, so they both care for me and are employed by Nuclear

Care Partners. We get to see each other often and spend time together which is so nice.

I've really been taken care of and I only have good things to say about Nuclear Care Partners. I'm so grateful for them and I'm happy to be one of their very first patients.

10 YEARS CELEBRATING

Serving Former Atomic Workers

A decade ago, our mission took root as Nuclear Care Partners was founded by two nurses with a passion for helping former atomic workers receive the highest quality of care. Inspired by the captivating stories and unbelievable struggles of our nation's atomic retirees, we set out with a mission to elevate the standard of care for this special population and to create a quality organization that focused on patient-centered care.

We believed that patients deserved a different type of clinical offering and that if we focused on patients and doing the right thing, the rest would follow. We longed to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.

The initial goal was small—to help just a handful of former workers and their families. But because of our incredible care teams and our desire to serve every community that called out in need, we began to expand to reach more patients.

In the early years, we had more failure than success and we had more people than we could count tell us that we would fail. But every “no” served as fuel to drive us forward in our dream and in our mission. The philosophy of doing whatever it takes to do the right thing was so important to us those first few years, and still stands true today, a decade later.

This dream and this mission continues to flourish as we have grown from...



A few patients to **thousands of lives touched** through our care services (and thousands more through our outreach & advocacy efforts)



2 employees to over **1,000 NCP team members**



1 location to serving former workers in **19 states across the country**



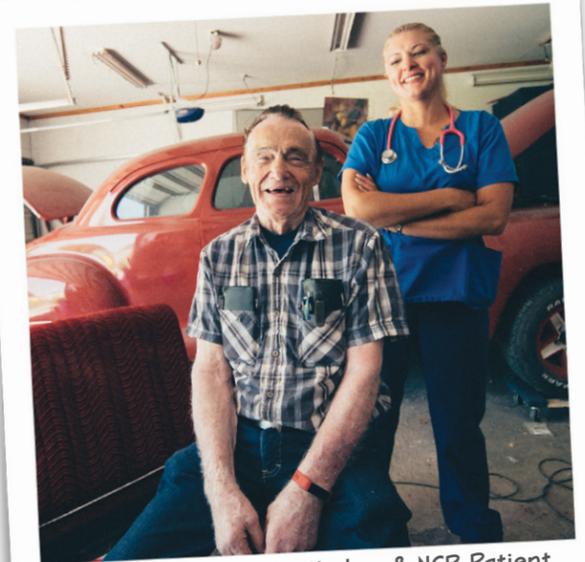
And providing **hundreds of thousands of life-changing care hours**



Jenna Noem, our Co-Founder & CEO, celebrating the National Day of Remembrance with Former Atomic Workers



Johnnie, Former Atomic Worker & NCP Patient



Gail, Former Atomic Worker & NCP Patient

Looking back on the past 10 years, our dream to make a difference in the lives of our former atomic workers has come to life in ways we never could've imagined.

We must thank you again, for all that you did during your time in the nuclear weapons industry. You made so many sacrifices, some in the way of your health, as you worked to protect our country by building and maintaining its nuclear defense. Serving and caring for you—our nation's atomic heroes—is what gives us our purpose and what brings us true joy.

Hearing your stories, memories, and getting to know you is what makes this mission so special and why this anniversary means so much to us.

It is truly an honor to know and to serve you. Thank you for celebrating this exciting milestone with us!



Ron, Former Atomic Worker & NCP Patient



Bernie & Ramona, Former Atomic Workers & NCP Patients

Cheers to 10 years!

Giving You the Superior Service You Deserve

You deserve nothing less than excellence.



— Herman, Former Atomic Worker & NCP Patient

What is ACHC Accreditation?

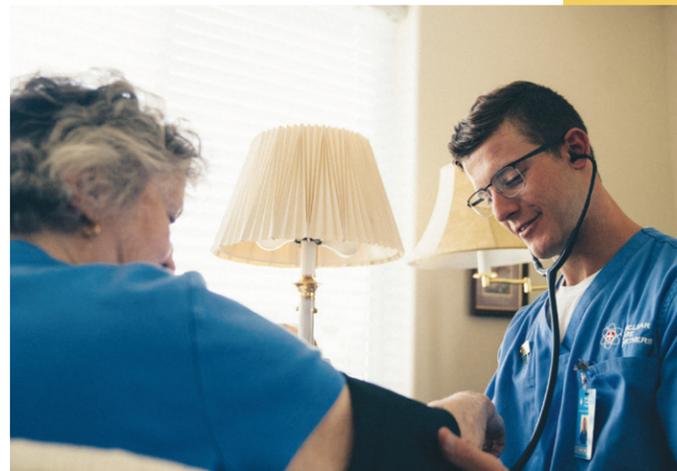
In order to demonstrate an ability to meet regulatory requirements and standards, healthcare organizations may receive accreditation through a process of review by a recognized accreditation organization such as Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC). Accreditation is a direct reflection of the company's commitment to providing the highest level of quality patient care.

How does an Organization Become Accredited?

To become accredited, an organization must undergo a rigorous process that consists of ACHC surveyors making on-site surveys, conducting visits in patient homes to assess their care, interviewing staff members about their practices, and reviewing medical records, policies, and procedures.

What does this mean for you?

As a former atomic worker, you sacrificed your health to keep our country safe, in return we believe you deserve the highest quality of care available to you. Our accreditation keeps us accountable to specific quality and process standards. By choosing a healthcare provider that has achieved ACHC accreditation, you can take comfort in knowing that you will receive the highest quality of care.



— Lydia, Former Atomic Worker & NCP Patient

The 1st ACHC Accredited Provider for Former Atomic Workers

As a commitment to quality care for our ever-deserving patient population, we became the first accredited provider in our industry. We proudly subscribe to the highest industry standards, best practices, and performance improvements.

We hold ourselves accountable to these standards, so that our patients can have peace of mind in knowing that they are receiving the utmost quality of care.

Our accreditation is just one of the ways we aim to thank and honor you for your work and provide you with superior service.



*Currently we are accredited in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, South Carolina, Washington, and Wyoming.

**All expansion locations will be accredited on a rolling basis. Even if we are not accredited in each state, we hold each location to the same highest standards of care and operations.

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Providing the best in patient care is at the heart of what we do. Former atomic workers sacrificed their health to deter, and if necessary, fight, a nuclear war. We believe they deserve the highest level of care in return for the service they provided and sacrifices they made to keep our country safe.

- Patti Kendall,
VP of Clinical Compliance

Meet Your Local Benefits Specialists!

Laura Welsh
Serving CA & OR



"The men and women we serve are important parts of our nation's history. The stories they share never fail to amaze and inspire me. They truly are the greatest generation; the nation called, they answered. Assisting them with their DOL benefits is my privilege, and an honor I cherish each day. I wouldn't want to work anywhere else."

Josh Ashby
Serving ID & WY



"I'm humbled by the opportunity to help such great men and women that have played a role during such an important time in our nation's history. I love being part of the team that can provide relief or help to such amazing and deserving people."

Nick Ferrigno
Serving OH



"My duty is to ensure every single DOE worker is well educated & well informed regarding the in's and out's of the DOL process and the various benefits that come with it. I know my mission and I know what I've been called to do, and that's to serve the great people of Ohio who need help. I consider myself extremely blessed to be in the position I am to continue to serve."

Lori Shanks
Serving AL, CO & LA



"After being in healthcare for over 20 years my position with NCP has by far been my favorite job. Assisting these former workers is an honor and a privilege. This population is so special. It brings me true joy being able to educate, advocate, and most importantly be a part of their lives."

Angela VanOrder
Serving IA & MO



"In my near 20 years as a nurse, I have never had a job that feels more like a family. I am so passionate about the patients that we serve because they gave the utmost sacrifice to our country and it is so fulfilling to be able to give back to those who gave so much! I especially love the close relationship I have with all of our patients, who are like family as well as our whole team here at NCP!"

Ruben Mendoza
Serving AZ, MO & NV



"When I started with NCP in 2014 I couldn't have anticipated how much I would love serving the men and women that gave selflessly to our country. My greatest reward is knowing that I am able to assist them through the DOL process and help them get the benefits they need and deserve. For some who have lost hope in ever getting any kind of help, it stirs my heart to be able to be a part of their miracle. I am so grateful to be part of this mission."

Amanda Rhoden
Serving GA, SC & VA



"I've had the pleasure of meeting some of the most incredible people who share with me such vivid and amazing stories. One common theme in almost every story I hear is... sacrifice. Whether it was because they had to put food on the table for their family, keep a roof over the head of their loved ones, or because they felt a calling to serve our country during the Cold War. Whatever it may be, their sacrifice has ultimately led them to me and I feel a true sense of responsibility to them just as if they were my own loved ones."

Jennifer Reeves
Serving TX



"In every area of nursing that I have worked over the last 22 years, I have always loved what I do because of the patients. In my job with NCP, I have found a true passion for our very special patient population, our nation's atomic heroes. It's a privilege to serve them and be here to make their lives better and allow them to enjoy their retirement years."

John Tyrkala
Serving FL



"I believe there is no greater honor than serving those who served us. Being able to provide advocacy and care to our former energy workers is incredibly rewarding. These atomic heroes unknowingly put their health and wellbeing in harm's way in support of our national security. The great life I enjoy today is built on the shoulders of these workers who gave so much."

Stephanie Bogle
Serving NM



"I have found that my passion for helping others is a gift that rewards me daily. I am excited for the opportunity to share my compassion and empathy to the men and women who have served us. With 3 years of experience in home health care, I look forward to sharing my enthusiasm, joy, knowledge, and light with all the New Mexico DOL cardholders as well as future patients."

Do you need help with any of the following:

- Determining if you may qualify for EEOICPA benefits?
- Going through the filing process for benefits?
- Filing for an impairment rating?
- Adding a consequential illness to your card?
- Reviewing and refileing a denied claim?
- Finding approved medical vendors?
- Accessing your white card benefits?
- Navigating the DOL online billing portal?

Wherever you're at in your journey with your benefits, our Benefits Specialists can help!

For a decade, Nuclear Care Partners has helped former atomic workers obtain and maximize their EEOICPA benefits. Our Benefits Specialists can help you determine if you may qualify, establish your next steps, connect you to resources—including credible authorized representatives—to help you file your claim, and help you get the most out of your white card.

Get Connected to Your Local Benefits Specialist Today!

📞 800.295.5846



Bristol Hospice is graciously committed to our mission that all patients and families entrusted to our care will be treated with the highest level of compassion, respect and quality of care.



Bristol Hospice's programs increase quality of life for our hospice patients during a very special time of this life's journey; a bridge to meet a special need.

Suffering with a terminal diagnosis? Suffering from end-stage dementia? Suffering with chronic pain, falls and debilitating prognosis? Suffering from the onset of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or other disease with increasing decline that limit life? Hospice can help! Studies find that those who utilize hospice before a crisis-situation, fully taking advantage of the many support services and in-home care disciplines, avoid re-hospitalization and live, on average, 29 days longer.

Hospice is a Medicare benefit. Those who are eligible have no additional out-of-pocket cost and is also covered by many private insurance plans.

Hospice care is a team approach that includes your physician, our hospice medical director, nurses, medical social workers, spiritual chaplains, grief counselors, home health aides and volunteers. We provide nursing care, pain & symptom management, 24-hour phone consultations, after-hours emergency visits, family caregiver training and much more.

Hospice is provided in the comfort of wherever you call home. Our team of professionals come to you. Alongside DME, Medication and in-home care support that provides comfort care measures, Bristol Hospice goes above and beyond with our specialty care programs of Bright Moments, Sweet Dreams and as a partner of We Honor Veterans.

Bristol Hospice began operations in 2006 and is headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah. Bristol Hospice has a long history of providing exceptional hospice care across the country. Operating in 35 locations across 10 states including: AZ, CA, OR, HI, UT, CO, TX, GA, NV and FL.

“ We have told people you ‘RUN’ LIKE NASA WITH ‘THE HEART’ OF ‘THE LORD.’ We will always remember the love and care you gave to mom and the family. ”

-Surviving Family Member

Veterans & Their Needs



As a "We Honor Veterans" Hospice partner, we join America's hospice professionals who are on a mission to "serve Veterans through the challenges they may be facing from illness, isolation or traumatic life experience." The goals of the Bristol Hospice "We Honor Veterans" programs are simple: to care for and honor those who have served, when they reach the end of life. Bristol Hospice gratefully offers education and assistance to Veterans and their families regarding their hospice benefits.

Bright Moments

The Bright Moments program developed by Bristol Hospice helps give Light to Life for our patients with dementia, and helps their caregivers & families promote comfort as health conditions change.



Our goal is to deliver exceptional care for you and your loved ones in a dignified and profound way while creating as many Bright Moments as possible. Through person-centered care, we provide added support for our hospice patients by utilizing nonpharmacological methods based on studies reviewing over 23,000 case samples.* Our Points of Light kit provides specialized interventions and therapies that are meant to comfort, calm and provide a pathway to moments of light.

Sweet Dreams



Sweet Dreams is a program based upon the belief that compassionate presence and a care plan devoted to end-of-day sleep rituals and comfort, can result in an enhanced patient satisfaction.

The Sweet Dreams program is provided in the hours leading up to bedtime through creation of a nurturing and soothing environment provided by our caring & thoughtful Certified Nurse Aides. This added support is based on a supervised and personalized plan of care which is meant to facilitate a better night's sleep and comfort at the end of the day.

Find out more about the Hospice Medicare benefit at www.bristolhospice.com

Ask the Experts: **Know Your Numbers**

with **Angela Hays**

Regional Outreach Director with Nuclear Care Partners



An experience all too familiar...

Bob K. kept getting notices from his doctor's office that his bill was past due and he owed over \$4,000 for the procedure he just had. Confused, he called the billing department because his treatment should have been paid for by his white medical benefits card from the Department of Labor. The billing office told him his claim had been denied because it was not a covered illness on his card.

Trying to work out the problem and a solution proved to be complicated until he called his local Community Outreach Manager from Nuclear Care Partners. They were able to help Bob look up what ICD-10 codes were actually on his card and with Bob, called the billing office back to confirm they had the right codes. The correct codes were sent and the bill was paid.

A seemingly simple solution. For many, however, this coding issue can cause real heartache.

A common issue for white cardholders...

In 2015, the billing codes were changed from ICD-9 to ICD-10 codes in order to more specifically and more accurately show what disease a patient had been approved for under the EEOICPA.

An ICD-10 code is a specific code that has to match the DOL code to ensure your bill is paid by the DOL. It also ensures that the doctor's office gets paid.

When the change occurred, the Department of Labor either kept the ICD-9 code you were approved under or changed it to an ICD-10 code that they believed most closely matched your original code. But sometimes the codes did not match.

For instance...

Bob's physician noted his COPD was now exacerbated and started billing under ICD-10 code J44.1.

The DOL most closely matched Bob's COPD as unspecified and uses the ICD-10 code J44.9.

Because J44.1 and J44.9 do not match, Bob's medical bills were not being paid.



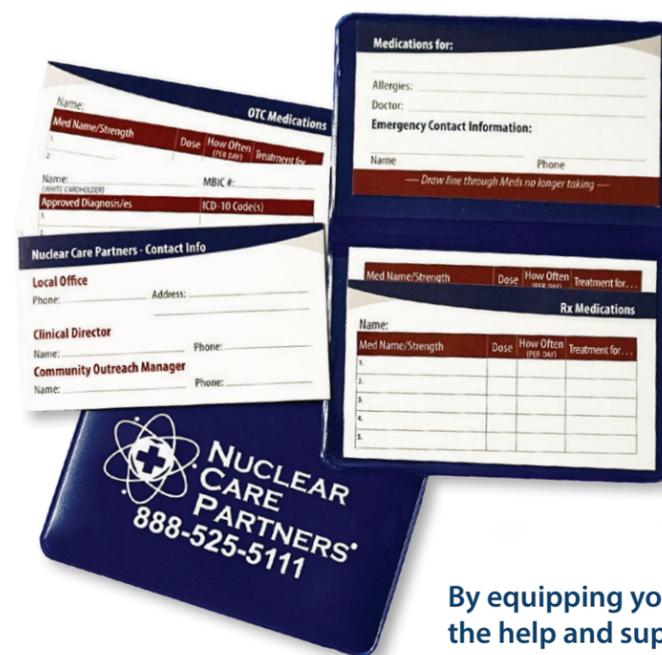
We Can Help You Know your Numbers!

Here at Nuclear Care Partners, we were seeing this issue replay over and over again with the former workers we serve. As a participant in the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program and its health care benefits, we believe that the more informed you are, the more empowered you are to take control of your benefits.

We recently created a custom Medical Info Cardholder (featured on the back page of this edition) with special inserts to house your DOL Benefits White Card information including:

- Your Approved Diagnosis/es
- ICD-10 Codes
- MBIC #
- And Much More

Once you've ordered and received your med cardholder, simply call your local Community Outreach Manager and they will help you fill out the inserts to help you keep track of your pertinent medical and white card information.



By equipping you with this resource and arming you with the help and support of your local Community Outreach Manager, we will help you know your ICD-10 codes so that your medical bills are correctly paid and so you can advocate for yourself!

The next time you are at the doctor, make sure to let the receptionist know what ICD-10 codes you would like your visit billed under and let the doctor know to please dictate to the codes on your card. If any issues in billing arise, then the first area to check is if the codes match.

DOL Resource Center

*In some cases, you may need to call the Resource Center to get the ICD# changed or modified. If you need help finding a DOL Resource Center near you, give us a call at **800.295.5846!***

Ask the Experts: **Impairment Ratings**

with **Laura Welsh** *Benefits Specialist with Nuclear Care Partners*



When I'm assisting former Department of Energy workers to maximize their EEOICPA benefits, one of the questions I commonly ask is "when was your last Impairment Rating?" Many workers have either never heard of an Impairment Rating or reflexively say, "I'm not impaired," confusing "impairment" with "disability."

It's important to understand how the Department of Labor defines impairment, which is covered under Part E of the *Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act*:



What is Impairment?

An impairment is defined as any loss or abnormality of an anatomical structure or function or a decrease in the functioning of an extremity, other body part, or organ. It's expressed as either a percentage of impairment of the extremity or of the body as a whole.

For example: someone who has had skin cancers removed from their face and is left with a disfiguring scar has an impairment that has altered their anatomy (face) and may also have an abnormality (disfigurement). Because the cancer and the treatments have altered a body part, it is considered an impairment because the body has been affected by the cancer and the treatment.

Another example: a breast cancer survivor had a double mastectomy, radiation and chemotherapy treatments and is now cancer free. The removal of her breasts is an impairment to her whole body. Any damage to her tissues or nervous system (neuropathy, lymphedema) due to the chemotherapy and radiation treatments is also an impairment to her extremities. Because the damage resulted in a restriction of movement, this is also considered an impairment.

In both of these examples, the people may feel well and are currently back to their normal activities. However, because their *body* suffered an impairing factor, they may be eligible to receive impairment compensation through Part E of the EEOICPA.



Who can Request an Impairment Rating?

Former employees of the Department of Energy, contractors and subcontractors who develop an illness due to exposure to toxic substances at certain DOE facilities may be eligible. Additionally, uranium miners, millers and ore transporters are also eligible for benefits if they develop an illness as a result of toxic exposure and worked at a facility covered under Section 5 of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). A toxic substance is not limited to radiation but includes things such as chemicals, solvents, acids and metals.

Before your impairment rating can be performed, you must have an approved claim with the U.S. Department of Labor.

Ask your local NCP Benefits Specialist how to file an initial claim or an impairment claim as we are happy to help guide you!



Who can Prepare an Impairment Rating?

The physician who prepares an Impairment Rating must be Board-certified and trained as well as certified to perform impairment ratings using the AMA's Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, or experienced in using the Guides.

The Department of Labor doesn't reimburse the cost of impairment ratings with *unqualified* physicians.

Nuclear Care Partners highly recommends Drs. Meals and Tolar, to perform your Impairment Rating. As the nation's premier provider of EEOICPA Impairment Ratings, the physicians at Dr. Meals and Tolar will ensure that your rating is done thoroughly. In many cases, Drs. Meals and Tolar will also uncover other illnesses that may be claimed in order to maximize your benefits.

For an impairment claim, you will be asked to provide a record of your "Activities of Daily Living." Drs. Meals and Tolar will assist you in filling this form out and will also ask for the latest medical records for your approved illnesses. After speaking with you and reviewing your medical records, the doctor will then write a comprehensive Impairment Rating and submit it to the Department of Labor.



How much is the Impairment Rating Award?

Part E of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Plan provides qualified claimants with \$2,500 for every 1% of whole body impairment.

Impairment ratings may be re-evaluated every two years—or sooner if a new covered condition has been added to your DOL White Card.



Who to Call for Assistance?

To get connected with your EEOICPA benefits, Impairment Ratings or to have other questions answered, call **800.295.5846** and ask to speak with your local Nuclear Care Partners Benefits Specialist.



— James, Former Atomic Worker & NCP Patient

Your Whole Family Wellness Partner

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.



Nasal Dryness Gel



We listen to our patients to better understand their needs and strive to help in every way possible. After hearing feedback from many of our patients who suffer from nasal dryness, we created a Nasal Gel formula to help combat the adverse effects experienced with nasal dryness. The nasal gel helps to moisturize and soothe a dry nose that may be caused by the following:

CPAP/BIPAP use
Radiation therapy
Oxygen therapy
Allergies
Low humidity

Colds/flu/COVID
Chronic sinusitis
Nosebleeds
Air travel
Winter dryness

Many over the counter alternatives (*Vaseline for example*) can be dangerous and a possible fire hazard when used with oxygen.



The main ingredient in the nasal dryness compound is Spira-Wash which is a non-petroleum-based gel containing organic Meadowsweet Extract. This extract potentially has germicidal, anti-inflammatory and healing properties, thus making it a good choice for wounds, ulcers, burns, sores, and cuts. Sesame oil is added for lubrication and to make the smell more appealing. If you would like more information about the Nasal Gel and possible treatment, please contact the pharmacy, we are happy to assist you.

Contactless delivery and shipping! Stay at 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.

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Arizona | Missouri |
| California | Nevada |
| Colorado | New Mexico |
| Georgia | Ohio |
| Idaho | Oregon |
| Iowa | Wyoming |

Please feel free to contact our pharmacy with any questions.

Pharmacy 855.557.6595

Is your loved one providing you with care?

Are they helping you with any of the following?

- Bathing
- Dressing
- Medication Reminders
- Coordinating Medical Appointments
- Driving to Medical Appointments

Join our Family Caregiver Bootcamp!

This FREE program will guide your caregiver through the basics of what it means to be a family caregiver and will provide education and support to help them care for you and protect your health.

This program covers the following topics and much more:

- How to properly wash your hands to prevent the spread of germs
- Tips & tricks on how to avoid touching your face
- How to properly clean and disinfect your countertops
- How to keep your loved one's medication organized & safe
- How to safely wash your linens & clothing
- How to care for yourself while caring for your loved one

Call to learn more & sign up for this program!
800.295.5846



Terry, Former Atomic Worker & NCP Patient





“ I keep telling my nurses that they need to change their name to 'Nuclear Care Angels' because that's what they are to me—they're my angels. ”

- Clarence, Former Atomic Worker & NCP Patient



“ 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, former NTS worker & NCP Patient

Real Workers, Real Patients

"From the time I got involved with Nuclear Care Partners it's been great. You guys are a blessing to me. I really appreciate everything you're doing for me."

- Ezra, Former Atomic Worker & NCP Patient

“ I've never been so happy in my life to have someone care for me. Nuclear Care Partners is at the top of my list. I've got a life that I can still live and I want a quality of life, they give me that. They help me do the things I want to do. They really care. ”

- Larry, Former Uranium Worker & NCP Patient



“ My nurse has not only saved my life at least twice, but also helps keep me active and focused on my health. I really love the camaraderie, laughter, and fun we have during these visits. ”

- Robert, Former Hanford Worker & NCP Patient





**NUCLEAR
CARE
PARTNERS®**

631 24 ½ Rd. Suite C
Grand Junction, CO 81505

Trouble keeping all of your medication
info & white card info together?

Call for your free Medical Info Cardholder!

This custom card holder comes with inserts that
you can fill out to help you keep track of:



Prescription & Over the Counter Medications

- Dosage, frequency, etc.



Your Critical Medical Information

- Allergies, Primary Care Physician,
Emergency Contact Info



DOL Benefits White Card Information

- MBIC #, Approved Diagnosis/es, ICD-10 Codes



**Contact Information for Your Local
Nuclear Care Partners Team**



800.295.5846

