

About Chronic Beryllium Disease (CBD)

Beryllium sensitization or chronic beryllium disease (CBD) is an occupational disease caused by hypersensitivity to the beryllium metal. CBD can cause breathing problems which significantly impair your quality of life.

CBD can be treated but not cured. Early treatment can improve the quality of life for affected individuals, so there is a potential medical benefit to getting screened.

Prevention and Detection of CBD

Although there are very few activities at the Ames Laboratory involving beryllium at the current time, there was significant historical use of beryllium. As a result of this historical use, trace amounts of beryllium contamination may be found in hidden areas of Ames Laboratory buildings. Because of this, the Ames Laboratory has prepared a Chronic Beryllium Disease Prevention Plan (Plan 10200.031). This Plan describes the operations of concern and outlines the actions being taken to control the risk, including training, work practice controls, and the use of personal protective equipment.

MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE

Beryllium-associated workers may voluntarily participate in the Ames Laboratory medical surveillance program, offered through the Occupational Medicine Department. Beryllium-associated workers are in jobs where there is

known to be a risk of beryllium exposure. Known beryllium-associated workers are automatically added to the Beryllium Associated Worker Registry (BAWR).

SCREENING ON REQUEST

Even if you do not work in a job that is classified as a beryllium-associated worker, all current Ames Laboratory workers may opt for voluntary inclusion in the BAWR, which provides screening tests at no cost to the worker. Current workers can contact the Occupational Medicine Department (G11 TASF) to arrange for tests.

You might not choose to participate in the registry during your employment. After your employment has ended, the Former Worker Program (FWP) will still provide screening at no cost. The Ames Laboratory FWP is administered through The University of Iowa College of Public Health. Screening events are periodically held in Ames. Ames Lab Human Resources provides a FWP information brochure to employees checking out of the lab.

You can contact the FWP toll-free at 866-282-5818 or visit their website at <http://cph.uiowa.edu/iowafwp/>.

What if I'm sensitized or found to have CBD?

Sensitization is an abnormal condition, but there may not be any symptoms associated with it. It is important, however, to monitor the condition so that treatment can be started early if necessary. Periodic follow up appointments will be recommended.

Medical Care

If symptoms of CBD develop during your employment, claims will be submitted to Worker's Compensation to cover any medical expenses and other costs.

If symptoms of CBD develop after employment, the FWP will assist in filing a claim under the Department of Labor Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICP).

Counseling

Being diagnosed with a chronic condition like beryllium sensitization or chronic beryllium disease can be very disturbing. Feelings of anxiety and uncertainty can impair the ability to enjoy life even if you have no physical symptoms – and if symptoms do develop, you may need or want help dealing with them.

You have an explicit right to medical, psychological, and career counseling to deal with these concerns.

MEDICAL COUNSELING

Medical counseling, including your treatment options, is available at the Occupational Medicine Department for current Ames Lab employees and through the FWP for former employees. Occupational Medicine Department may be contacted at 515-294-2056.

PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING

The Iowa State University Employee Assistance Program serves as a confidential resource for counseling and referrals to relieve distress.

CAREER COUNSELING

Career counseling is available through the Ames Lab Human Resources Department at (515) 294-2680.

MEDICAL BENEFITS

Ames Lab Human Resources can assist with any questions that you may have about your medical benefits, claims processing, or the administrative procedures required. Contact Ames Lab Human Resources at (515) 294-2680.

References

Ames Laboratory Chronic Beryllium Disease Prevention Plan (CBDPP), Plan 10200.031 Rev 5.0, effective January 2014

Former Worker Medical Screening Program FAQ
<http://cph.uiowa.edu/iowafwp/line1/faq.html>

Code of Federal Regulations Title10 CFR Part 850 – Chronic Beryllium Disease Prevention Program

Additional Information on Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) – Ames-Lab Specific fact sheets, brochure, claim processing information:
<http://cph.uiowa.edu/iowafwp/ames/EEOICPA.html>

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Environment, Safety, Health & Assurance
G40 TASF – 294-2153

Beryllium Sensitization Resource Guide

Your Rights

