

Chronic Beryllium Disease (CBD) - Awareness

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Treatment & Consequential Conditions

There is no known cure for CBD, but the disease may be slowed by using immunosuppressive medicines. Depending on the severity or stage of the disease, the treatment will vary. The most common immunosuppressive prescribed to workers that have been diagnosed with CBD is prednisone. Any decision to use drugs should be made after discussing possible side effects with your physician.

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 medicine might affect you. Consequential conditions of CBD treatment can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Infection | • Anxiety and depression |
| • Diabetes and related consequences | • Hypertension |
| • Osteoporosis | • Glaucoma |
| • Cataracts | • Hyperlipidemia |
| • Insomnia | • Gastroesophageal reflux disorder |
| • Weight gain and obesity | |

Consequential illnesses are recognized risks in treatment of CBD and, therefore, proper diagnosis is crucial. By working together with their personal physician, an occupational medicine physician, and/or a Board Certified Pulmonologist, patients can be assured of receiving appropriate medical care.



 **Additional Information about Potential Illnesses that may be Developed as a Result of CBD or its Treatments**

- ➔ [Illnesses that may develop as a result of CBD](#)
- ➔ [Illnesses that may develop as a result of CBD treatments](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor administers the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program. The program serves workers who have beryllium disease, certain radiation-related cancers, or silicosis as a result of on-the-job exposures while they were working at specific DOE facilities or at some other weapons and beryllium plants. Current and former workers who have CBD may receive monetary compensation, as well as medical benefits related to the care of the disease. Those who are beryllium sensitized are provided with ongoing medical monitoring for CBD.

Additional information can be found on the following websites:

- [Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation \(DEEOIC\)](#)
- [DOL Policy and Procedure Manual - Consequential Conditions](#)
The information contained in DOL Policy and Procedure Manual is the governing guidance when evaluating CBD claims and consequential illnesses and to clearly indicate that DOL is charged with the fiduciary responsibility of evaluating claims for benefits filed under the EEOICPA.
- [DOL Policy and Procedure Manual Eligibility Criteria for Non-Cancerous Conditions](#)
- [DOL Program Benefits](#)
- [DOL Compliance Brochure](#)
- [Division of Federal Employees' Compensation \(DFEC\)](#)



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