

Sept. 3, 2014

RE: Coal workers health surveillance program expansion

Effective Aug. 4, 2014, NIOSH has expanded its health surveillance program for coal workers in accordance with recent publication of the MSHA final rule. This surveillance includes underground and surface coal workers. The purpose of this change is to accurately record any loss of lung function amongst all miners particularly within the early years of mining.

Medical screening requirements (Section 72.100) - Initial/baseline screening (within 30 days of employment)

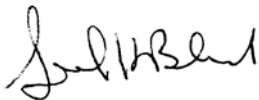
- Respiratory Clearance Examination, including occupational history and symptom assessment- by NIOSH certified facility
- B Read Chest X-ray –
- Spirometry (pulmonary function test) – by NIOSH approved facility
- Results will be submitted by screening/medical facility to NIOSH who will send the miner a report of the evaluation. The miner may request NIOSH send the report to the miner's primary care physician.

Periodic screening - *May be directed more specifically by NIOSH pending their approval of the mine's plan; generally the following may apply:*

- Within three years of initial screening; with testing as above
 - If there is evidence of pneumoconiosis or reduced lung function must repeat screening within two years at NIOSH's discretion
 - If no evidence of illness, proceed with ongoing surveillance
- Continual surveillance screening must be offered every five years (following second or third screen); including:
 - B Read Chest X-ray – by NIOSH certified facility
 - Spirometry – by NIOSH approved facility
 - Respiratory Clearance Examination

Sanford Health Occupational Medicine Clinic is certified as to perform the respiratory examination, the chest X-ray and the spirometry. If you need individual help with starting your plan, please call me at 701-323-2419 or email me at Joel.Blanchard@SanfordHealth.org with questions.

Sincerely,



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