

BTMED news



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Medical Edition Vol. 12

January 2024

www.btmed.org

Thank You for Keeping Construction Workers Coming Back!

As BTMed embarks on its 28th year, we know that our program's mission wouldn't be possible without you — our medical providers. Your hard work has improved—and even *saved*—the lives of the Department of Energy's former construction workers, a population whose work naturally puts them at risk for occupational illnesses. It's because of you that they not only get screened, but also return for their re-screening exams every three years. When you have a moment, be sure to visit www.btmed.org to see all the resources our program has to offer!

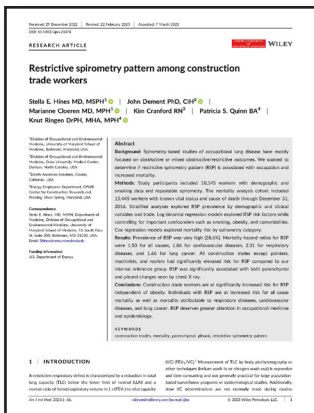


BTMed at its team meeting last January.

Results from Medical Exams Published in AJIM

Using the medical findings from exams that providers like you perform, BTMed researchers evaluate the data to detect disease patterns and trends possibly related to DOE construction work. These studies have demonstrated the need for ongoing screening of workers.

Last year, BTMed published "Restrictive pattern spirometry among construction workers" in the *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*. In total, BTMed has published 22 studies. Find them all under the "Publications" tab at www.btmed.org.



Reporting Requirements: Adverse Events and Abnormal Medical Findings



In the event of an **adverse event**, including complaints from BTMed participants, or **abnormal medical findings**, providers are required to report these within 24-hours to Kim Cranford, BTMed Nurse Manager, at **865-481-8027** and kcranford@zenith-american.com.

She can be reached after business hours at **865-437-0053**.

BTMED MEDICAL FINDINGS

From the 46,000+ exams BTMed Providers have performed

Occupational Health Findings

- Chest x-rays: 19.2% of participants had findings consistent with work-related lung disease.
- Pulmonary function tests: 22.9% of participants had findings consistent with obstructive disease, which can be caused by many construction work-related exposures.
- Beryllium Lymphocyte Proliferation Tests (BeLPT): 2.13% of participants had at least one abnormal BeLPT.
- Audiometry: 65.2% of participants demonstrated hearing loss above what would be expected in the general population.

Early Lung Cancer Detection (ELCD) Program Findings

- Lung cancer has been detected in 57 of 1,964 DOE workers screened with low-dose CT.
- 44 of the 57 lung cancers (77%) were detected at an early stage when effective treatment and even cure are much more likely. Lung cancer screening saves lives!

"I can't think of a thing to make my experience any better! The doctor and nurses at Portsmouth, Ohio, were great! Keep up the great work."

*Steven Rowdy Hawkins
Former Battelle Labs-West Jefferson Worker
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #189*

"I wouldn't have been diagnosed with lung cancer as early as I was if it hadn't been for BTMed. I was a boilermaker for a long time, and there's no way that you work around all that we did and not need to be checked out. It could mean your life."

*Frank Rose
Former Savannah River Site Worker
Boilermakers Local #687*

BTMed Visits Longtime Medical Providers in Idaho Falls and Pocatello

Last year, BTMed visited Dr. Eric Perttula (Idaho Falls) and Portneuf Workmed Occupational Health (Pocatello), two of BTMed's 225+ medical providers. Dr. Perttula and Portneuf have served BTMed participants since 2005 — back when the program was first expanded to cover workers from Idaho National Laboratory (INL). Since then, BTMed providers have completed nearly 2,300 exams for INL workers.

Thank you, Dr. Perttula and Portneuf, for providing thousands of screenings to our BTMed participants in Idaho!



Dr. Perttula (center) with BTMed Medical Director Dr. Marianne Cloeren and BTMed Assistant Director Miles Fisher.



Dr. Samuel Saunders (second from left) and Clinic Manager Katy Williams (second from right) with BTMed.

BTMed welcomes Dr. William Grier to the Medical Team

Dr. Grier is a pulmonologist with clinical and research interests focusing on increasing enrollment in lung cancer screening, improving rates of follow-up of pulmonary nodules found on low dose CTs, and the impact of occupational and environmental exposure history on lung cancer risk. His research includes work on mesothelioma and potential health effects from certain military exposures.

