

DCMA's Medical Surveillance Program

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Any DCMA employee exposed to occupational hazards should complete a data collection form

The Defense Contract Management Agency's medical surveillance program systematically assesses and tracks the health of employees exposed or potentially exposed to occupational hazards. The program monitors employees for adverse health effects resulting from workplace exposures to

environmental and chemical hazards; ensures employees are medically cleared to perform their duties; and reduces, and ultimately prevents, occupational illnesses and injuries.

Any DCMA employee exposed to occupational hazards should complete a data collection form available at <http://dcma.foh.dhhs.gov>. This Web-based form collects information about employees' specific job requirements and current or potential exposures to chemical or environmental hazards. An occupational health

physician reviews the information to determine whether screening is necessary.

All DCMA employees are eligible to participate in the program based on their potential for workplace exposures to hazards. Quality assurance specialists, industrial specialists, aerospace and industrial engineers and property specialists generally have the types of exposure risks or job demands that require medical surveillance and are required to participate.

In addition, newly hired or current employees moving into new positions who must wear personal protective equipment, to guard against health hazards, should submit a data collection form to determine eligibility.

Depending upon an employee's job requirements and risk for exposures, an occupational health physician may recommend a physical examination, take an extensive medical history or perform a chest X-ray,

(Background) Stethoscope. (Photo by Chris Hutchison)

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laboratory tests, hearing test or lung function test.

Depending upon the situation, there may also be Occupational Safety and Health Administration or agency-mandated exams for asbestos exposure, respirator clearance, clearance for confined space entry or noise exposure. Site visits may also be made to conduct exposure assessments, workplace assessments, indoor air quality assessments or noise surveys.

To get started in the program, employees should register on the agency's occupational health and safety Web site at <http://dcma.foh.dhhs.gov> and select the "Medical Surveillance" button. This will open the data collection form on which employees should provide information about their job requirements and exposures to determine whether they should participate in the program. No medical information is collected on the data collection form. **C**

Frequently Asked Questions

Who provides and pays for DCMA's medical surveillance program?

Employees do not pay for any services associated with the DCMA medical surveillance program. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services manages the program, conducts exams, assessments, tests and surveys, and DCMA pays for all required examinations and tests. More information is available at <http://www.foh.dhhs.gov>.

Where do I go for my medical surveillance exam?

Federal Occupational Health will arrange for a licensed nurse and/or physician to conduct your medical surveillance evaluation. Members will receive services at one of more than 200 FOH occupational health centers located in or near federal buildings or through its network of more than 900 private providers nationwide.

What about confidentiality?

DCMA has entrusted the FOH medical staff with the responsibility to maintain employee confidential medical files, and FOH takes confidentiality issues very seriously. The information reviewed by FOH's occupational health physicians is stored in a secure medical records system. Employees' personal medical information is not shared with supervisors or anyone else without explicit permission.

What else should I know?

Through FOH, DCMA provides several programs to optimize worker health. These include: online health risk assessments, online wellness education services, health fairs, virtual fitness, employee assistance program services, industrial hygiene services and DCMA work/life services.

For questions about this program, or issues related to worker health, visit <http://dcma.foh.dhhs.gov>, e-mail DCMAnet@psc.gov or call 1 (800) 236-7415.