

HPMC Occupational Medical Services

Beryllium Exposure Evaluation Process

You are here for a medical evaluation due to a possible or known beryllium exposure. This procedure describes what you will experience while you are here.

You have the right to be evaluated for potential health effects, including a variety of tests. You may choose to have these tests today, decline one or more of these tests, or schedule an appointment to come back for testing after reading beryllium-specific information we will provide you today. Your healthcare provider can discuss your options in more detail so you can make the decision that is best for you. *You can also choose to have the possible or known exposure documented in your medical file without medical testing being performed.*

CLINICAL ASSESSMENT

- TELL THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER what you experienced at the time of exposure and what symptoms—if any—you've had since then.
- VITAL SIGNS will be taken in the triage area.
 - You will be asked how you feel, and how you look will be noted.
 - Your temperature, blood pressure, pulse, respiration, and finger pulse oximetry (measurement of oxygen in your blood) will be checked.
 - You will need to provide contact information to the medical provider for follow up.
 - BASELINE LAB TESTS (BeLPT blood test, chest X-ray, pulmonary function test) will be offered.

CONCLUDING YOUR INITIAL EVALUATION

- Employees with minimal or no symptoms and a normal exam may be returned to work with or without restrictions while lab test results are pending.
- Employees are strongly encouraged to return to HPMC OMS, seek Emergency Room care, or visit their Private Medical Provider if symptoms develop or worsen.
- A follow-up visit at HPMC OMS will be scheduled when your lab results are received or at the discretion of the provider and/or if requested by you.

DESCRIPTION OF BERYLLIUM EXPOSURE TESTS

The *beryllium lymphocyte proliferation test* (BeLPT) is a blood test that determines if certain types of your white blood cells have become sensitized (“allergic”) to beryllium from a beryllium exposure. If your BeLPT drawn today comes back other than negative, this indicates possible sensitization from a previous exposure (i.e. not today's), as it takes weeks, months, even years for sensitization to occur after exposure.