

Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme

New process for reading chest X-rays – information for doctors

The Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme protects the health of Queensland coal mine workers by ensuring periodic health assessments are conducted. Health assessments include a chest X-ray to detect Mine Dust Lung Diseases (MDLD) such as Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis.

Early detection of MDLD is essential. A miner with early signs of MDLD may have no symptoms, but their exposure to harmful dust should be reduced to prevent the disease from progressing. Accordingly, early detection through an effective screening program is critical to protecting the workforce.

Chest X-rays are examined to the International Labour Organization (ILO) International Classification of Radiographs of Pneumoconioses (ILO Classification) by at least two medical experts. These experts have achieved B-reader accreditation from the US-based National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

New Australian-based dual-reading service

In July 2016, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) engaged the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) to provide chest X-ray dual-reading services for Queensland's coal mine workers. This was an interim solution until an Australian-based dual-reading service was established.

From 2017 the transition to Australian B-readers has been progressing. DNRME has engaged Lungscreen Australia (Lungscreen) to coordinate an Australian-based dual-read program. Lungscreen's B-readers have achieved the same NIOSH accreditation as UIC. The Lungscreen B-readers will report in the same format as UIC, the format recognised by the ILO, which provides a rigorous process for reporting on the abnormalities in chest X-rays that may indicate pneumoconiosis.

On 1 March 2019, Lungscreen replaced US-based B-reading for all Queensland coal mine worker chest X-rays. All chest X-rays must now be sent to Lungscreen for dual-reading. Amendments to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2017 (the Regulation) that commenced on 1 March 2019 made this a mandatory requirement of the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme.

Other Australian B-readers registered with DNRME can undertake the first B-read and provide this to Lungscreen to complete the dual-reading process. If Appointed Medical Advisers (AMAs) or employers choose to use other Australian B-readers registered with DNRME for the first read, they should consult with their B-reader for referral instructions to the relevant X-ray imaging clinic/s registered with DNRME.

The new dual-reading service will result in a number of changes for doctors conducting coal mine worker health assessments.

Changes to the process for doctors

Creating an account with Lungscreen

Doctors will need an account with Lungscreen in order to complete and print a chest X-ray referral form and to view and download a worker's chest X-ray image and completed ILO report. To register for an

account, visit www.lungscreen.com. Please allow up to three business days for Lungscreen to create your account.

Registering workers

Workers need to be registered on the Lungscreen portal so that Lungscreen can match the image and ILO Classification form to the worker via a unique identification number. This will avoid delays in Lungscreen issuing the worker's final ILO report. Workers also need to be registered in order to view their image and ILO report online.

Workers can register themselves or may request the doctor to register them on their behalf. Workers can be registered at www.lungscreen.com. Doctors should log in via their Lungscreen account to register workers.

Lungscreen X-ray referral form

Doctors must refer workers for X-rays using Lungscreen's referral form so that imaging clinics know to send the worker's chest X-ray image to Lungscreen. AMAs and other referring doctors should ensure that workers attend X-ray imaging clinics with arrangements in place with Lungscreen in order for Lungscreen to provide the first read.

Doctors need to log in to their Lungscreen account to complete the referral form. This will ensure Lungscreen receives important information on the referral form such as request for urgent service and billing information.

Clinical reports and ILO reports

Imaging clinics will provide standard chest X-ray clinical reports to the referring doctors, however the reports will not include an ILO Classification. Standard clinical reports do not constitute the first read of the dual-read and adjudication process.

Only the final adjudicated ILO report issued by Lungscreen can be used to complete a valid health assessment (ILO reports from the UIC for X-rays taken before 1 March 2019 may also be used).

Any health assessment completed without the final adjudicated ILO report will not meet the requirements of the Regulation or the approved form.

Accessing final ILO reports

A key feature of Lungscreen's service is that referring doctors and workers will be able to view a worker's chest X-ray image and ILO report online. Lungscreen will notify the referring doctor and worker when the image and ILO report are available for viewing. Only the final report showing the adjudicated result will be made available.

Payment information

Employers will continue to pay for image acquisition by imaging clinics, but will also need to pay Lungscreen and other Australian B-readers to read X-ray images. Employers and their AMAs need to discuss billing arrangements with Lungscreen and other registered Australian B-readers.

Completing health assessment form

Once the AMA completes section 4 of the health assessment form, the AMA is still required to send the digital chest X-ray image file, along with the completed health assessment form, ILO report and other

reports, to DNRME via the Coal Mine Workers' Health Assessment Portal. AMAs can obtain a copy of the image from the imaging clinic.

For more information and assistance in accessing the portal, please contact the Health Surveillance Unit on (07) 3096 6267 or nmaportal@dnrme.qld.gov.au.

Transitioning to Australian dual-reading

Sending X-rays to Lungscreen from 1 March 2019

X-rays must be sent to Lungscreen from 1 March 2019. Lungscreen will read the images twice (and any adjudication) unless it receives the first ILO report by another Australian B-reader registered with DNRME. In these cases, Lungscreen will conduct one read and any adjudications before issuing the final report.

X-rays sent to Lungscreen prior to 1 March 2019

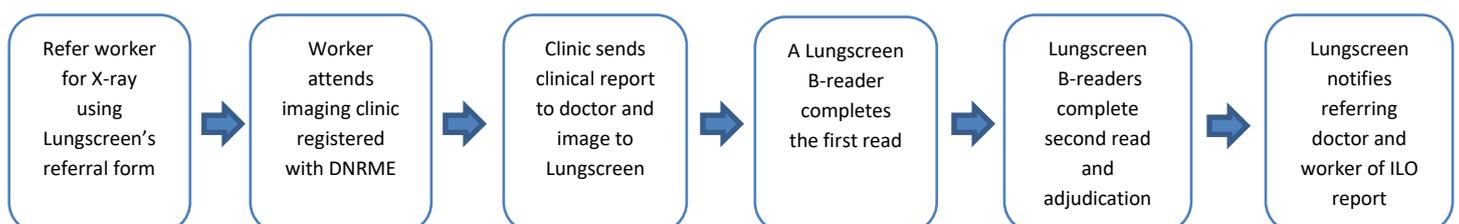
Any X-ray sent to Lungscreen prior to 1 March 2019 will be read once by Lungscreen before transferring to the UIC through DNRME.

X-rays sent to DNRME prior to 1 March 2019

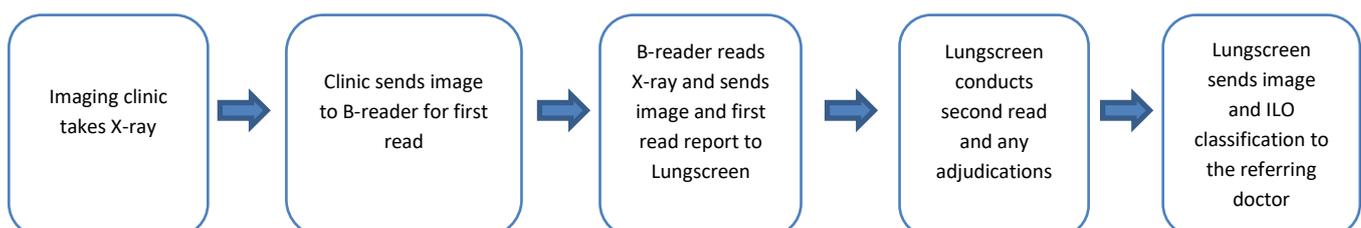
X-rays uploaded directly to DNRME prior to 1 March 2019 will be transferred to the US for dual-reading and the final ILO reports for these X-rays will be returned to doctors through the previously established process.

Chest X-ray dual-reading process

Lungscreen conducts two reads and adjudications



Other registered Australian B-reader conducts first read



More information

Lungscreen Australia

Call: 07 5376 3333

Email: info@lungscreen.com

Visit: www.lungscreen.com

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Call: 07 3199 7967

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