

Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme

New process for coal mine worker chest X-rays – information for imaging clinics

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 such as Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis (CWP).

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.

Previously all coal mine worker chest X-rays were first examined by Australian radiologists and then dual-read by B-readers in the US.

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) has engaged Lungscreen Australia (Lungscreen) to coordinate an Australian-based dual-reading program. On 1 March 2019, Lungscreen replaced US-based B-readers as the dual-reading provider for all Queensland coal mine worker chest X-rays.

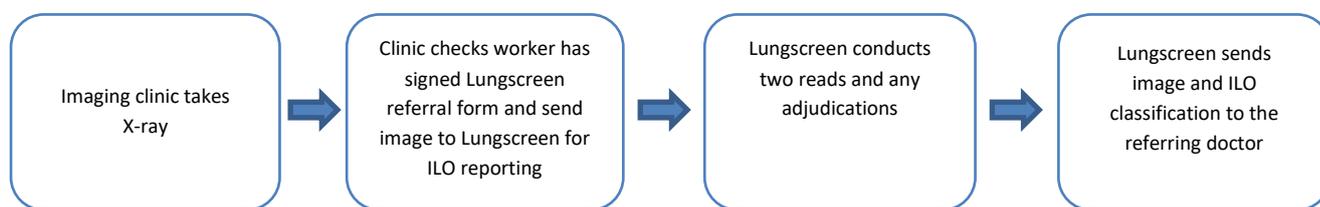
Changes to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2017

Commencing on 1 March 2019, only imaging clinics on DNRME's Register of Doctors and Medical Providers will be able to take X-rays for coal mine workers. Imaging clinics must send all coal mine worker chest X-rays to Lungscreen from this date.

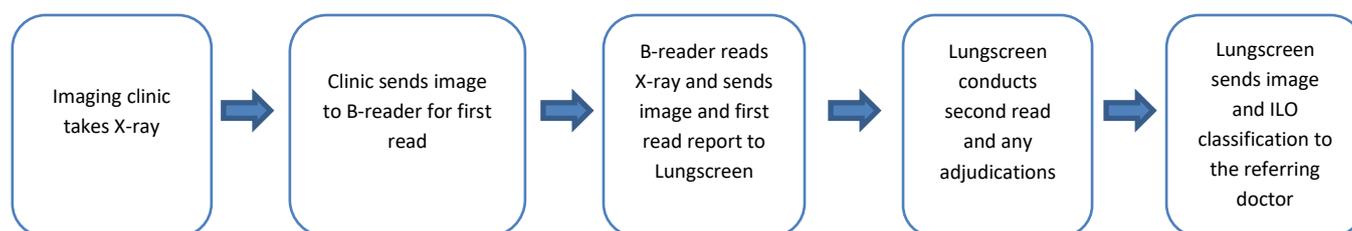
Changes to the regulation under the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme also mandate the use of B-readers. Australian B-readers wishing to undertake the first B-read must register with DNRME. Registered B-readers can undertake the first B-read and provide this to Lungscreen to conduct the second B-read and any adjudications. Lungscreen will issue the final report.

Chest X-ray process (from 1 March 2019)

Lungscreen conducts two reads and adjudications



Other registered Australian B-reader conducts first read



Changes to the process

Imaging clinics must be registered to take X-rays for coal mine workers

Imaging clinics must be registered on DNRME's Register of Doctors and Medical Providers to take X-rays for coal mine workers. Clinics seeking to register with DNRME must meet the registration requirements, including gaining accreditation with Quality Innovation Performance (QIP). DNRME has engaged QIP to deliver accreditation services for medical providers that offer services to Queensland coal mine workers.

Lungscreen X-ray referral form

Lungscreen has developed an X-ray referral form for doctors to use when referring workers for a coal mine worker chest X-ray. The worker will attend a participating imaging clinic to have the X-ray taken, with an initial standard report from the clinic's radiologist. The Lungscreen referral form includes a worker consent section that allows the imaging clinic to send their chest X-ray image to Lungscreen for B-reading. Imaging clinics will need to check that the worker has signed the form. A copy of the Lungscreen referral form is available at www.lungscreen.com.

Information in the DICOM® header

Workers will be registered on the Lungscreen portal. Workers will register themselves or the referring doctor will register on their behalf. This will generate a Lungscreen ID number.

Imaging clinics will need to include the worker's Lungscreen ID number, when available, on the image's DICOM® header. Lungscreen will use this information to match it to the worker's records. The worker's Lungscreen ID number will be printed on the X-ray referral form.

Standard chest X-ray clinical report and ILO Classification

Imaging clinics will still need to provide a standard chest X-ray clinical report to the referring doctor but the reports will not include an ILO Classification. Standard clinical reports do not constitute the first read

of the dual-read and adjudication process. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists has recommended including the following information in the clinical report:

“This X-ray has not been graded for pneumoconiosis as it will be assessed by at least two B-readers under the screening program operated by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.”

Sending images to Lungscreen

Imaging clinics must then send chest X-ray images to Lungscreen. Clinics should also send the referral form to Lungscreen.

Clinics must have an arrangement with Lungscreen or a registered B-reader to provide ILO Classifications as part of the dual-reading process.

Referring doctors may obtain a copy of the image from the imaging clinic

More information

Lungscreen Australia

Call: 07 5376 3333

Email: info@lungscreen.com

Visit: www.lungscreen.com

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

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