

Breath Life FOUNDATION

Dear Healthcare Provider,

Your patient has been asked to give you this letter in regard to his/her asbestos-exposure. Your patient is a construction worker and/or a member of the Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers union, many of whose members have had significant exposure to asbestos and are at risk for the development of lung cancer, mesothelioma, colon cancer, asbestos-related interstitial disease, and asbestos-related pleural disease in addition to a number of other processes.

The Breath of Life Foundation, a joint labor-management undertaking, is attempting to help asbestos-exposed persons detect any asbestos-related diseases early and treat them when possible.

This is not an effort to recruit patients for purposes of litigation, and is motivated in part by the belief that the trivialization of asbestos-related diseases and cancers has been created in large part by the legal system.

A letter accompanying this correspondence has been sent to your patient with a brief outline of what may be expected at an evaluation for asbestos diseases. It is consistent with the peer-reviewed literature, and is not intended to be specific medical advice for a specific patient.

Mindful that many providers are not trained in this very narrow area of medicine, we have included the web address of the recently reviewed Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's Case Study in Environmental Medicine continuing education module on Asbestos Toxicity:

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/csem/csem.asp?csem=29&po=0>

It is free of charge and will also award you 2.5 Continuing Medical Education Credits.

If you have any questions regarding the diagnosis of asbestosis and its related conditions, you may contact me, Michael Harbut, MD, MPH, FCCP, at the clinic 248-350-2722, through Cyndi Noraian, RN 248-849-3107, or by email Michael.Harbut.MD@gmail.com. I am coauthor of the American Thoracic Society's criteria for the diagnosis and treatment of asbestosis, have helped develop biomarkers for mesothelioma, and have seen, literally, thousands of patients with asbestos related diseases.

The Insulators Union in conjunction with Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City has established a "tissue bank". If you ultimately obtain any biopsy or tissue samples, we would very much appreciate your cooperation in helping us to transmit these materials to Mt. Sinai to be used for research purposes. The number of Dr. Andrew Todd, the program director of the Mt. Sinai tissue bank is: 212-824-7053. Dr. Todd's email address is: andy.todd@mssm.edu.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Harbut, MD, MPH, FCCP
Clinical Professor, Internal Medicine
Michigan State University, School of Human Medicine