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Subject: CLCW Rating Issues
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 3:53:38 PM

All VSC Employees,

During a review of CLCW decisions, it appears the office has autotext (examples shown below) that many decision makers are using, which references the National Research Council (NRC) study.

The National Research Council released a report which found insufficient evidence for either a causal relationship or a positive associated but limited or suggestive evidence of an association between contaminated water and multiple disabilities. Colorectal cancer was not included on this list. There is currently insufficient evidence to establish a plausible link between your condition and contaminants found in the water at Camp Lejeune.

Or

The National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council (NRC) published its article, "Contaminated Water Supplies at Camp Lejeune, Assessing Potential Health Effects" in 2009. This report included a review of studies addressing exposure to the chemicals found to be contaminating the water at Camp Lejeune, and a discussion of disease manifestations potentially associated with such exposure. Fourteen disease conditions were identified as having limited/suggestive evidence of an association with TCE, PCE, or a solvent mixture exposure. They include: esophageal cancer, lung cancer, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, adult leukemia, multiple myeloma, myelodysplastic syndromes, renal toxicity, hepatic steatosis, female infertility, miscarriage with exposure during pregnancy, scleroderma, and neurobehavioral effects.

Effective immediately, do not reference the NRC report/study in your decisions unless the CLCW Subject Matter Expert (SME) medical opinion directly hinges on this report as the basis for the opinion. Most often, the medical opinion has a better rationale that does not rely on this report, which has questionable scientific validity in light of subsequent studies. Therefore, please cease referencing this report and using any autotext that refers to it.

Additionally, we should not state how long the Veteran was on Camp Lejeune, merely state that we have verified your service at Camp Lejeune and, therefore, concede exposure to the contaminated water.

If you have questions, please see your Coach or Assistant Coach.

/s/

Laura

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