

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Operations (10NC)

Subj: Subject Matter Experts Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

To: Network Directors (10N1-23)

1. The evaluation of claims for disabilities related to the Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water (CLCW) continues to be a major VA effort. Under the Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) we have established a consultation service of subject matter experts (SME) who are trained to handle these highly complex claims. The number of pending claims in this cohort continues to grow exponentially.
2. Additional SMEs are needed to provide advisory medical opinions (AMOs) for claims related to CLCW. DMA is requesting participation for each VISN to ensure the consultation service distributes workload equally. Currently VISN 5, 10, 12 and 22 lack representation in the CLCW consultation service. Each VISN should identify two board certified or board eligible occupational physicians to evaluate these complex claims. Alternatively, an internist with experience in occupational/ environmental medicine or toxicology and experience in performing disability evaluations could be an expert for purposes of evaluating these claims.
3. As each AMO currently takes approximately two to three hours to complete, VA needs your support to ensure appropriate protected time is made available for these SMEs to complete CLCW AMOs.
4. DMA will provide training on specific topics related to Camp Lejeune and the development of a defensible medical opinion. The next training session will be held September 2-5, 2014 at the Louisville, Kentucky VBA Regional Office. Training is necessary to be considered an SME. After training is complete, the duties will be performed from the SME's home station.
5. The Point of Contact for this Memorandum is [REDACTED] (b) (6)
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