

Order 43

COAL SERVICES HEALTH MONITORING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NSW COAL INDUSTRY

Committed to our purpose, 'To Protect'

Since it was introduced in February 2011, Order 41 has provided a clear set of guidelines for industry in regard to the completion of health assessments, and is widely recognised as a key part of the NSW coal mining health and safety scheme.

Our goal is to ensure that the health surveillance program in NSW continues to deliver the best possible evidence based outcomes for coal workers.

Order 43

Coal Services Health Monitoring Requirements for Coal Mine Workers Order No. 43 (Order 43) builds on the processes and systems that were established under Order 41 to protect the health and safety of workers in the NSW coal industry.

Order 43 will come into effect on 1 July 2018.

The importance of health monitoring

As most occupational illnesses take many years to develop, regular health surveillance allows for early detection and intervention with the goal of ensuring that workers can continue to work safely.

A pre-placement medical assessment is required before an individual commences work or changes roles in the NSW coal industry. This includes a chest x-ray for new entrants to the industry. The medical and chest x-ray serve as a baseline for future health surveillance.

The periodic medical assessment ensures that workers' ongoing health is protected and monitored for any adverse health risks as a result of their employment.

In NSW, every coal worker must undergo periodic health surveillance (known as a periodic medical assessment) every three years.

Requirements for medical providers performing Order 43 medical assessments

The Order sets forth minimum qualifications for health professionals conducting Order 43 medical assessments. Only an **approved medical practitioner** may conduct a pre-placement medical assessment.

An approved medical practitioner or registered nurse working under their supervision may complete a periodic medical assessment.

An 'approved medical practitioner' is a doctor who:

- Is registered by the Medical Board of Australia
- Has completed the NSW Coal Industry Medical Induction Program
- Has provided an Annual Calibration Statement to Coal Services
- Has completed an approved course in spirometry interpretation
- Is listed on the Register of Approved Medical Practitioners as published on the Coal Services website

A 'registered nurse' means a nurse who:

- Is a registered nurse (division 1) registered by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
- Has completed an approved course in audiometry
- Has completed an approved course in spirometry

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The NSW Coal Industry Medical Induction Program

About the program

The NSW Coal Industry Medical Induction Program has been developed based on findings from the Senate Select Committee Inquiry and the Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry to provide an understanding of the health risks associated with coal mining and to better equip medical providers to monitor workers' health for early detection of occupational disease.

The program will include:

- Information about the primary purpose of the respiratory component of the health assessment scheme, in particular health protection, prevention and early detection of coal miners dust disease.
- Information about the spectrum of coal miners dust diseases.
- How to conduct and interpret spirometry testing.
- Information about coal dust and silica exposure associated with the coal mining industry in NSW.
- An introduction to the mining environment with a focus on inspecting those jobs 'at risk of dust exposure'.
- Training on how to complete each section of the health assessment and identify any abnormalities.
- Training in the use of clinical guidelines for follow-up and appropriate referral in cases where respiratory abnormalities are found.

Accreditation

Upon attending the course each medical provider will be issued with an interim accreditation number that is valid for three months. This allows the participants to conduct medicals while allowing time to meet all accreditation requirements.

Frequency

It is expected that accreditation will be an ongoing process, comprised of formal course attendance and webinars in alternating years.

For example, medical practitioners must complete the initial NSW Coal Industry Medical Induction Program in year one; complete and/or attend two webinar sessions in year two, and attend a refresher course in year three.

Program information

Who should attend?

General practitioners who currently perform Order 41 medicals

Course duration

One day (8.00am to 3.30pm)

Course cost

\$550 per person (plus GST)

Location

The course will be run across the regional coal mining centres of NSW: Lithgow, Gunnedah, Singleton, Newcastle and Wollongong.

Course schedule

The first course will be run on **Thursday, 28 June 2018** at the **Hunter Valley Mines Rescue station**, 6 Lachlan Avenue, Singleton Heights NSW 2330.

For more information or to book your attendance please contact CS Health:

T. 02 4948 3196

E. partnership_innovation@coalservices.com.au

www.coalservices.com.au

