

Respiratory Health Investigations



Information for employers

CS Health is committed to protecting the health of all coal mine workers, both current and retired.

The primary purpose for referring a worker to a respiratory physician is to investigate a potential abnormality related to their respiratory health. The respiratory physician will assess abnormal screening tests and symptoms to provide a diagnosis and advise on treatment and a medical management plan.

The respiratory physician is not responsible for determining a worker's fitness for work.

The referral process

CS Health has a dedicated Clinical Investigations Team who will support the worker throughout this process.

CS Health will organise the referral and send it directly to the respiratory physician. The specialist rooms will then contact the worker to arrange a suitable appointment.

CS Health currently refers to respiratory physicians located in the Hunter Valley, Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong.

The worker may be required to attend more than one appointment with the respiratory physician to establish a clear diagnosis and where further investigations are required.

Costs

CS Health will pay for the initial consultation with the respiratory physician and will also cover the costs of specific tests that the respiratory physician may request.

These tests are limited to:

- High resolution CT chest scan (initial and progress scan)
- Pulmonary lung function testing
- Pathology blood test
- Follow-up consultations to establish diagnosis.

If the worker is referred for a test or procedure that is not listed above, CS Health has instructed the worker to contact us to discuss possible options.

Note: CS Health does not cover the cost of any other procedures or associated specialist consultations (e.g. biopsy procedures, sleep studies, cardiologists).

Consent to notify employers

CS Health requires a worker's consent to share any health information, including referrals, with their employer.



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Establishing a clear diagnosis

CS Health emphasises to workers the importance of completing respiratory investigations to establish a clear diagnosis or cause.

CS Health receives a detailed report from the respiratory physician following each appointment. The report includes the respiratory physician's opinion on the cause and diagnosis, along with recommendations for ongoing management and care. The outcome from the respiratory physician's assessment/s determine the next steps in the investigation process. They also assist the CS Health Medical Officers to determine if any workplace restrictions or remedial measures are required to protect the worker's respiratory health.

The respiratory physician may also recommend a worker attend additional testing or review consultations, even after a diagnosis is established.

Workers are encouraged to follow any recommendations provided for ongoing management and care.

Confirmed respiratory disease

If a respiratory disease is confirmed, the worker will be referred to their General Practitioner for their continued management and care.

CS Health will monitor the worker through Order 43 health assessments and may require the worker to attend an early review.

Some types of respiratory diseases must be reported to the NSW Resources Regulator. A list of reportable diseases can be found on the [NSW Resources Regulator website](#).

If the worker is diagnosed with a reportable respiratory disease, CS Health will notify the worker in the first instance. Following discussion with the worker, CS Health will inform the employer. The worker's certificate will be updated to include relevant details of the diagnosis and appropriate restrictions and remedial measures required to protect the worker's respiratory health from further harmful exposure.

An Industry Health Partner will contact the employer to discuss any necessary remedial actions that the employer needs to implement. The Industry Health Partners will also assist the employer to manage and support workers who have been diagnosed with respiratory disease to safely return to work.

NSW Resources Regulator Notifications

CS Health will notify the NSW Resources Regulator if a worker is diagnosed with a reportable respiratory disease.

As an employer, once you have received notification of a confirmed occupational respiratory disease you are also obligated to notify the NSW Resource Regulator.

Coal Mines Insurance

CS Health recommends discussing any respiratory-related claims with Coal Mines Insurance who will guide you through the workers compensation process.

Please contact your Account Manager or the Employer Services Team (email employerservices@coalservices.com.au).

**If at any time you are uncertain or have any questions,
please contact us on 1800 274 633 or email cs.h.lunghealth@coalservices.com.au**