

## Explanatory Notes for the Coal Mine Worker - Health Assessment Report (Section 4)

The Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme (CMWHS) is used to determine fitness for work, and to provide early diagnosis and intervention for respiratory diseases like coal mine workers' pneumoconiosis and silicosis.

The Health Assessment report (previously referred to as the Section 4) represents the summary of a completed **Qld Coal Mine Workers Health Scheme Medical Assessment (CWMHA)**, which is sent to the employer and the coal worker after the AMA has assessed all clinical information and results. Important to note that the EMPLOYER may receive only the section 4, whereas the worker may receive additional medical information with their section 4.

### Understanding the Health Assessment Report

The AMA reviews all the contents of the CMWHA and issues a **Health Assessment Report** (Section 4). This report is split into different sections and contains the recommendations of the Employer's AMA based on the contents of the Coal Mine Workers' Health Assessment - CMWHA.

The **Coal Mine Worker and Employer Details** are on the first page and importantly lists the proposed/current position and which mine site/s this **Health Assessment Report** allows the Coal Mine Worker to access.

The **Respiratory Examination Review** section displays whether previous lung function tests (spirometry) have been made available and compared with the most recent lung function test and the dates of the ILO B dual read chest x-ray relied on to complete the Health Assessment Report. The timing of the next Coal Mine Workers' Health Assessment (CMWHA) can be no longer than 5 years from any component of the CMWHA (e.g. ILO Chest x-ray) or the date of the previous Full Periodic Health Assessment.

The **Fitness for Duty** section on the first page of the Health Assessment report advises on Coal Mine Worker's current fitness for work determination and any relevant restrictions. It also contains the details and dates of the next full Periodic Health Assessment and any Subsequent Reviews – if required.

The **Diagnosis** section refers to whether a prescribed disease (e.g. Silicosis, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) has been diagnosed or not.

Please note that the Health Assessment Report allows access to listed Queensland Coal Mine/s **only** until the date of the next Subsequent Review or Full Periodic Health Assessment whichever is sooner.

*Please be advised that if a subsequent assessment is required, there will be an additional charge for the AMA review to be paid for by the employer.*

**As coal mine worker, should you require any further information on any component of the Health Assessment Report please call the Sonic HealthPlus Coal Team on 07 4952 5100 Option 3.**

### **Possible outcomes in the Fitness for Duty Section:**

- Fit to undertake the proposed / current position:
- Fit to undertake the proposed / current position subject to restriction(s)
- Is not fit to undertake the proposed / current position because of the following restrictions:

### **Explanation of Fitness for Duty determinations:**

#### ***'Fit to undertake the proposed / current position subject to restriction(s)'***

This advises access to a Queensland Coal Mine from a CMWHA perspective, as long as the restrictions are adhered to. Any restrictions take into account any particular medical issues which the worker has disclosed during their CMWHA, and the hazards and the demands of the current/proposed condition

#### ***'Is not fit to undertake the proposed / current position because of the following restrictions'***

If this determination is selected, then the worker is not able to access a Queensland Coal Mine until this determination is updated. The AMA Coal Team will be in contact with the worker to discuss this further and advise on the next steps/actions.

### **Referral to Book and Attend a HRCT Scan of the Chest or Lung (Respiratory) Specialist**

The Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme (CMWHS) Clinical pathways guideline (CPG) outlines the recommended processes for follow-up investigations and referrals resulting from regular screening as part of the CMWHA.

The guideline was developed by the Coal Mine Dust Lung Disease Collaborative Group, a group of health specialists from the fields of occupational medicine, radiology, and lung health. The guideline has been endorsed by Queensland's Chief Health Officer, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and its Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Any specific abnormal medical results covered under this guideline (e.g. Chest x-ray or Spirometry abnormalities) are treated in accordance with the CMWHS CPG as per RSHQ directives. Therefore the coal mine worker may be referred for a subsequent assessment such as a HRCT Chest or Lung Specialist clinic appointment to comply with this guideline. The AMA will be in contact to explain the next steps/actions and your current fitness for duty. The date the AMA needs to receive this information is listed in the Fitness for Duty Section. The employer is responsible for all costs associated with this referral.

The following website can assist in locating a Radiology Provider for your HRCT:

<https://www.rshq.qld.gov.au/business/mining/safety/registered-medical-search>