



## **Instructions to Claimants – *New York City Disaster Area* Gathering and Submitting Information from Private Physicians**

The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (“VCF”) works closely with the World Trade Center (“WTC”) Health Program to determine whether a claimant’s medical condition(s) can be certified as eligible for compensation from the VCF. For claimants who are being treated by private physicians outside of the WTC Health Program, the VCF gathers the claimant’s medical and exposure information and submits it to the WTC Health Program for review. ***Without information from the WTC Health program or a claimant’s treating physician, the VCF cannot deem a claimant eligible for compensation.*** Please follow the instructions below and use the enclosed documents to gather the information the VCF needs in order to verify the claimed condition is eligible for compensation.

**Step 1:** Review the enclosed documents to understand the type of information that is needed. The documents can also be found on the [www.vcf.gov](http://www.vcf.gov) website under “Forms and Resources”. The website also has Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQs”) about the Private Physician process.

**Step 2:** Review in detail the “*Assessing Exposure to the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 Attacks Form*” and complete the form, being careful to use either the Responder or Non-Responder version based on the claimant’s specific circumstances.

**Step 3:** Review the WTC Health Program “*Diagnostic Essentials: Physical Health Conditions*” document. ***The guidelines outline the specific documentation that is required in order to verify a condition for compensation from the VCF.*** Review the required documents for the specific injury being claimed to confirm you will be able to provide the requested information.

**Step 4:** Complete the 2-page “*Treating Physician Information Form*” using a separate form for each treating physician. This form can be completed by the claimant or the physician. Please list the conditions for which the claimant is being treated and the year of earliest diagnosis/symptom and provide relevant medical records (as outlined in the “Diagnostic Essentials” document) that support the diagnosis. If the claimant completes the form, please notify the physician that the form has been submitted to the VCF.

**Step 5:** Complete an “*Authorization for Release of Medical Records Form*” for each physician whose information is included in a “*Treating Physician Information Form*”. Provide one original version of the Authorization Form to the individual physician and send a second original version to the VCF. It is important that you complete one Authorization for each physician and provide the completed, original Authorization forms to both the VCF and your physician(s). The Authorization Form authorizes the physician(s) to speak with the VCF about the claimant’s treatment. Please note there is one version of the form for Personal Injury claimants and one version for those filing a claim on behalf of a Deceased Individual.

**Step 6:** Gather the completed forms and relevant records from each physician and write the claimant’s name and VCF claim number on the first page of each form or document. Finally, complete the “*Cover Sheet for Return of Completed Private Physician Forms*” and upload the cover sheet and documents to the online claim or mail them in a single package to the VCF at:

September 11th Victim Compensation Fund  
PO Box 34500  
Washington, DC 20043

For overnight deliveries:  
September 11<sup>th</sup> Victim Compensation Fund  
1220 L Street NW  
Suite 100 - Box 408  
Washington, DC 20005-4018

***When uploading the forms to your online claim, please select “Private Physician Forms” from the list of document types. Please do not upload or mail the documents separately. It will speed processing if all of the documents for a single claim are uploaded at the same time or sent as one package to the VCF.***



**Cover Sheet for Return of Completed Private Physician Forms, Associated Records,  
and Assessing Exposure Worksheets**

Claimant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Claim Number: VCF \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Please complete this form and include it with the Private Physician forms and relevant documents that are uploaded to the online claim or mailed to the VCF. This form notifies the VCF that all of the applicable documents have been received for the claim. For claimants who have one or more physicians who will mail the information directly to the VCF, this form identifies the physician(s) and notifies the VCF that the documents will be submitted.

**When uploading the forms to your online claim, please select "Private Physician Forms" from the list of document types.** This will help ensure your forms are properly categorized for faster processing. Please see FAQ #4.12 on the [ww.vcf.gov](http://ww.vcf.gov) website for step-by-step instructions for uploading documents to your claim.

**\*\* Claimants should submit the completed forms and relevant records in ONE package or upload the documents to the claim at the same time unless the physician is mailing the information directly to the VCF. \*\***

Check here if this package includes all information and documents the claimant expects to submit to the VCF regarding treatment by physicians outside of the WTC Health Program.

Check here if this package includes all physician information and documents being submitted by the claimant, but additional documents will be mailed directly to the VCF by the physician(s). If selecting this option, please indicate in the spaces below the names of the physicians who will mail documents to the VCF.

Check here if all information and documents will be sent to the VCF directly by the physicians (claimant will not submit any additional forms beyond those submitted by physicians). If selecting this option, please indicate in the spaces below the names of the physicians who will mail forms to the VCF.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



### Assessing Exposure to the September 11, 2001 Attacks - NYC Disaster Area

Complete this form if you were present in the NYC Disaster Area. If you were present at the Pentagon or Shanksville, PA sites, please use the version of the form specific to those sites.

For the purposes of completing this form, please use the following definitions:

- A **Responder** is a worker or volunteer who provided rescue, recovery, demolition, debris removal, and related support services in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center.
  - A **Non-Responder** is a person who was present in the "NYC disaster area"<sup>1</sup> in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center as a result of their work, residence, or attendance at school, childcare, or adult daycare.
- If the Claimant was a **Responder** in the NYC disaster area, begin completing the form on this page.
  - If the Claimant was a **Non-Responder** in the NYC disaster area, complete the form starting on page 6.

\* \* \* \* \*

Claimant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

VCF Claim Number: VCF \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Dates of response and recovery service (MM/DD/YYYY):**

Start: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (optional):

**2. Indicate in the below chart the estimated total duration of exposure for the different relevant exposure timeframes. Total duration of exposure is the number of hours that the Claimant performed rescue, recovery, demolition, debris removal, and related support services ("Response Activities") while within the NYC disaster area.**

Relevant Exposure Timeframes				Estimated Total Duration
September 11, 2001	<input type="checkbox"/> Not present	<input type="checkbox"/> < 1 hour	<input type="checkbox"/> ≥ 1 hour	Estimated duration in hours
September 12 – 14, 2001	<input type="checkbox"/> Not present	<input type="checkbox"/> < 4 hours	<input type="checkbox"/> ≥ 4 hours	Estimated duration in hours
September 15 – 30, 2001	<input type="checkbox"/> Not present	<input type="checkbox"/> < 24 hours	<input type="checkbox"/> ≥ 24 hours	Estimated duration in hours
October 1, 2001 – July 31, 2002	<input type="checkbox"/> Not present	<input type="checkbox"/> < 80 hours	<input type="checkbox"/> ≥ 80 hours	Estimated duration in hours

<sup>1</sup> The NYC disaster area consists of the area of Manhattan that is south of Houston Street; AND any block in Brooklyn that is wholly or partially contained within a 1.5-mile radius of the former World Trade Center site; AND any area related to, or along, routes of debris removal, such as barges and Fresh Kills. See <http://www.cdc.gov/wtc/define.html>.



**3. Indicate in the chart on the following page the location(s) where the Claimant performed Response Activities and the jobs/tasks performed by the Claimant. There are two columns that must be filled-in for the chart.**

i) In the column “**Location(s) of Response Activities**”, indicate the location(s) that the Claimant performed Response Activities during the time period by selecting the corresponding code(s) of the locations listed below.

Location Code	Location
A	On the pile/in the pit
B	Adjacent to the pile/pit
C	Landfill
D	Barges/loading piers
E	Elsewhere south of Canal Street
F	Other location – specify:
G	Don't know

ii) In the column “**Jobs/Tasks Performed**”, indicate the specific jobs/tasks performed by the Claimant during the time period by selecting the corresponding code(s) from the jobs/tasks listed below.

Job/Task Code	Job/Task Performed	Job/Task Code	Job/Task Performed
01	Body bag work	14	Industrial hygiene
02	Bucket brigade	15	Morgue work
03	Cable installation/repair/splicing (excluding work performed in manholes)	16	Perimeter security
04	Cable installation/repair/splicing (including work performed in manholes)	17	Sanitation worker
05	Canteen services	18	Search and rescue
06	Counselor	19	Sifting (excluding conveyor belt)
07	Custodian	20	Sifting (including conveyor belt)
08	Dog Handler	21	Towing
09	Dust suppression	22	Truck loading/unloading
10	EMT	23	Truck routing
11	Escorting	24	Torch cutting or burning
12	Excavation/confined space work	25	Work with concrete
13	Fire Fighter	26	Other; <b>Specify:</b>



Time Period	Location(s) of Claimant's Response Activities (Location Code)	Jobs/Tasks Performed (Job/Task Code)
<b>September 11, 2001</b>	A B C	01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09
	D E F	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
	G	19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
<b>September 12-14, 2001</b>	A B C	01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09
	D E F	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
	G	19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
<b>September 15-30, 2001</b>	A B C	01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09
	D E F	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
	G	19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
<b>October 1-December 31, 2001</b>	A B C	01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09
	D E F	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
	G	19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
<b>January 1-July 31, 2002</b>	A B C	01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09
	D E F	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
	G	19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

In the table below, indicate the relative amount of dust/fume/smoke exposure while performing the jobs/tasks described above for each time period listed. Place an "X" in the appropriate box(es) in the table.

Time Period during which Jobs/Tasks were Performed	Relative Amount of Dust/Fume/Smoke Exposure		
	Heavy visible layer of dust and/or smell of WTC smoke	Light visible layer of dust and/or smell of WTC smoke	No visible layer of dust and/or smell of WTC Smoke
September 11, 2001			
September 12-14, 2001			
September 15-30, 2001			
October 1-December 31, 2001			
January 1-July 31, 2002			



4. Identify the Claimant's location of residence, school or non-Response Activities work if also located within the NYC disaster area for each time period listed below.

Time Period	Activity (e.g., live, school, work) - if worked, describe job tasks	Location
September 11, 2001		
September 12-14, 2001		
September 15-30, 2001		
October 1-December 31, 2001		
January 1-July 31, 2002		

(Continued on next page)



**5. Was the Claimant in the NYC disaster area at any time on September 11, 2001?**

Yes     No

If yes – then check any relevant descriptions below:

Directly in the cloud of dust (or “blackout”) from the collapse of the WTC buildings

Exposed to some dust but not in the cloud of dust from the collapse of the WTC buildings

Exposed to significant amounts of dust but not directly in the cloud of dust from the collapse of the WTC buildings

Not exposed to dust and not in the cloud of dust from the collapse of the WTC buildings

Don’t know

If yes – what was the specific location of the Claimant’s response activity **ON** September 11, 2001?

**\*\* End of Responder – NYC Form \*\***



Please begin here if the Claimant was a **Non-Responder** in the NYC disaster area. If the Claimant was a Responder in the NYC disaster area, please complete the form for Responders starting on page 1.

Claimant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

VCF Claim Number: VCF \_\_\_\_\_

1. Indicate in the below chart the total hours present in the NYC disaster area and the total hours spent at home, work or school if the Claimant's home, work or school was located within the NYC disaster area for each time period listed below.

Time Period	Total hours present in the NYC disaster area	Total hours spent at home (if home was located within the NYC disaster area)	Total hours spent at work (if work was located within the NYC disaster area)	Total hours spent at school (if school was located within the NYC disaster area)
September 11, 2001				
September 12-14, 2001				
September 15-30, 2001				
October 1-December 31, 2001				
January 1-July 31, 2002				

2. Indicate the Claimant's location(s) within the NYC disaster area and the activities performed by the Claimant while present in the NYC disaster area for each time period listed in the chart on the following page. There are three columns that must be filled-in for the chart.

- i) In the column "**Location(s) of Non-Responder**", indicate the Claimant's location(s) within the NYC disaster area during the time period by selecting the corresponding code(s) from the locations listed below. Also specify the exact address within the NYC disaster area for the location(s).

Location Code	Location
A	Worker in one of the WTC towers
B	Worker in surrounding offices, stores, restaurants, or other workplace
C	Patron of surrounding stores, offices, or restaurants
D	Student or staff at school or preschool
E	Adult in daycare or staff at a daycare center
F	In transit; <b>Describe:</b>
G	At place of residence
H	Other location: <b>Specify:</b>





- ii) In the column “**Activities Performed**”, describe the activity(ies) performed by the Claimant while present in the NYC disaster area during the time period (e.g., cleaned home, cleaned workplace, lived in home).
- iii) In the column “**Duration**”, provide the duration that the Claimant performed the activity(ies) in the NYC disaster area during the time period.

Time Period	Locations of Non-Responder (Location Code)	Description of Activities Performed	Duration (total hours)
September 11, 2001	A B C D E F G H		
September 12-14, 2001	A B C D E F G H		
September 15-30, 2001	A B C D E F G H		
October 1-December 31, 2001	A B C D E F G H		
January 1-July 31, 2002	A B C D E F G H		

In the table below, indicate the relative amount of dust/fume/smoke exposure while performing the activities described above for each time period listed. Place an “X” in the appropriate box(es) in the table.

Time Period during which Activities were Performed	Relative Amount of Dust/Fume/Smoke Exposure		
	Heavy visible layer of dust and/or smell of WTC smoke	Light visible layer of dust and/or smell of WTC smoke	No visible layer of dust and/or smell of WTC Smoke
September 11, 2001			
September 12-14, 2001			
September 15-30, 2001			
October 1-December 31, 2001			
January 1-July 31, 2002			



**3. Was the Claimant in the NYC disaster area at any time on September 11, 2001?**

Yes     No

If yes – then please check the appropriate descriptions below.

Directly in the cloud of dust (or “blackout”) from the collapse of the WTC buildings

Exposed to significant amounts of dust but not directly in the cloud of dust from the collapse of the WTC buildings

Exposed to some dust but not in the cloud of dust from the collapse of the WTC buildings

Not exposed to dust and not in the cloud of dust from the collapse of the WTC buildings

Don't know

If yes, please provide the Specific location:

**\*\* End of Non-Responder – NYC Form \*\***



Treating Physician Information Form

**\*\* This form may be completed by the Physician or the Claimant \*\***  
Please complete a separate version of this form for each treating physician.

Claimant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

VCF Claim Number: VCF \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In the below chart, list the conditions for which the claimant is currently being (or previously was) treated by the physician. For each condition, provide the earliest date (month and year) of symptom onset and the date of first diagnosis (month and year).

Please provide copies of relevant records to support the diagnoses for the conditions listed below and any other information that might be relevant to the VCF, such as the effect of the condition(s) on the claimant. **Please refer to the "Diagnostic Essentials: Physical Health Conditions" document for the type of information that is required in order to verify a condition for compensation from the VCF.**

If applicable, please also provide a summary of any complications of treatment (i.e., new diagnoses stemming from treatment) and provide applicable medical records.

Condition Treated	Earliest Date of Symptom Onset (month/year)	Date of First Diagnosis (month/year)



**Treating Physician Contact Information**

**\*\* This form may be completed by the Physician or the Claimant \*\***  
Please complete a separate version of this form for each treating physician.

**Claimant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VCF Claim Number:** VCF \_\_\_\_\_

**Physician Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Physician Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Physician Phone:** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Physician Fax:** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Physician Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please also provide the state(s) where the physician is licensed to practice medicine, the corresponding license number(s) and any practice specialties along with the corresponding AMA Physician Specialty Code.

**State(s) and license number(s):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Specialties and AMA Physician Specialty Codes:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Diagnostic Essentials: Physical Health Conditions

## GUIDANCE TO THE VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND FROM THE WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH PROGRAM

First Issued: 18 December 2013

Subsequently revised: April 2 2014, September 24, 2014, October 3, 2014, October 6, 2014,  
March 1, 2015, March 28, 2015, & May 19, 2015

Please note that the relevant policies pertaining to the medical professional determination on behalf of a claimant to the Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) may be found on the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) website at <http://www.cdc.gov/wtc/policies.html>. The relevant policies include:

- Policy and Procedures to Certification of Physician Determination for Aerodigestive and Cancer Health Conditions
- Time Intervals for New Onset Aerodigestive Disorders
- Rare cancers
- Minimum Latency & Types or Categories of Cancer
- Making a Determination about Exposure Aggravating Pre-Existing Aerodigestive Disorders
- Health Conditions Medically Associated with WTC-Related Health Conditions.

In general, the diagnosis of a health condition depends on a combination of medical history, physical examination, various types of diagnostic testing, including radiographic and other types of imaging, spirometry, and various laboratory and pathologic analyses. The WTCHP has recommended that diagnostic information listed in this document be utilized by the VCF to substantiate the diagnosis of claimed health conditions.

For each category of health conditions, a star superscript (\*) is listed next to the types of information considered essential to support the medical professional determination of the underlying condition. In some categories, the clinician has a choice of which type of essential information is available in the medical record. Other clinical information that is not listed with a star superscript (\*) may support a diagnosis of a health condition. The VCF will then have a licensed medical professional make a determination regarding the health conditions and attest to the linkage of the conditions to the individual's 9/11 exposures. The determination is then submitted for a verification decision by the WTCHP in accordance with the policies and procedures of the WTCHP. The VCF renders the final decision regarding condition eligibility and subsequent consideration for compensation.

Health Condition Category <sup>1</sup>	Diagnostic Information Needed for Physician Determination	Reference Guidelines Supporting the Medical Basis for Diagnostic Information by Type of Condition
Interstitial Lung Disease <sup>2</sup>	<p><u>Pulmonary disease:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History (Symptoms) &amp; Physical Exam Findings</li> <li>• PFTs/Spirometry</li> <li>• Radiographic/Imaging Evidence for lung findings*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Thoracic Society(ATS)/European Respiratory Society International Multidisciplinary Consensus Classification of the Idiopathic Interstitial Pneumonias (2002) <a href="http://www.thoracic.org/statements/resources/interstitial-lung-disease/idio02.pdf">http://www.thoracic.org/statements/resources/interstitial-lung-disease/idio02.pdf</a></li> <li>• An Official American Thoracic Society(ATS)/European Respiratory Society Statement: Update of the International Multidisciplinary Classification of the Idiopathic Interstitial Pneumonias (2013) <a href="http://www.thoracic.org/statements/resources/interstitial-lung-disease/classification-of-IIPs.pdf">http://www.thoracic.org/statements/resources/interstitial-lung-disease/classification-of-IIPs.pdf</a></li> <li>• ATS Statement on Sarcoidosis (1999) <a href="http://www.thoracic.org/statements/resources/interstitial-lung-disease/sarcoid1-20.pdf">http://www.thoracic.org/statements/resources/interstitial-lung-disease/sarcoid1-20.pdf</a></li> <li>• Vij R, Strek MA. Diagnosis and Treatment of Connective Tissue Disease-Associated Interstitial Lung Disease. CHEST 2013; 143(3):814–824.</li> <li>• Casian A, Jayne D. Current modalities in the diagnosis of pulmonary vasculitis. Expert Opin Med Diagn 2012; 6(6):499-516.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>The general categories of health conditions that are listed in this Table have been drawn from the List of Health Conditions for Responders found at 42 U.S.C. §§ 300mm-22(a)(3)(A) and 300mm—32(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup>Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is a term used to describe the pulmonary manifestation of more than 100 health conditions. ILD is characterized by inflammation and/or fibrosis of the lungs. Some of the health conditions manifesting ILD may include, but are not limited to, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, sarcoidosis, eosinophilic granuloma, bronchiolitis obliterans, pneumoconioses and certain systemic autoimmune diseases such as the connective tissue diseases (CTD), and small vessel vasculitides.

<p>Obstructive airways disease, excluding asthma and reactive airways disease<sup>3</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History (Symptoms) &amp; Physical Exam Findings* <u>and/or</u></li> <li>• PFTs/Spirometry*</li> <li>• Radiographic/imaging (required to support diagnosis of bronchiectasis<sup>4</sup>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> For WTC-exacerbated Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), there must be evidence that COPD was present prior to September 11, 2001 and worsened after exposure.<sup>5</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standards for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with COPD: a summary of the ATS/ERS position paper (2004) <a href="http://www.thoracic.org/statements/resources/copd/copdexecsum.pdf">http://www.thoracic.org/statements/resources/copd/copdexecsum.pdf</a></li> <li>• Diagnosis and Management of Stable Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: A Clinical Practice Guideline from the American College of Physicians, American College of Chest Physicians, American Thoracic Society, and European Respiratory Society (2011) <a href="http://www.thoracic.org/statements/resources/copd/179full.pdf">http://www.thoracic.org/statements/resources/copd/179full.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<p>Obstructive airways disease—asthma and reactive airways disease only</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History (Symptoms) &amp; Physical Exam Findings* <u>and/or</u></li> <li>• PFTs/Spirometry*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIH National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma (National Asthma Education and Program (NAEPP)Expert Panel Report(EPR)-3, in 2007) <a href="http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-pro/guidelines/current/asthma-guidelines">http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-pro/guidelines/current/asthma-guidelines</a></li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> Obstructive airways disease (OAD) is a broad category of respiratory diseases which are characterized by varying degrees of reversible and irreversible airways obstruction and include chronic respiratory disorder (fumes/vapors), chronic cough syndrome, WTC-exacerbated chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, and reactive airways dysfunction syndrome (RADS).

<sup>4</sup> Bronchiectasis is certifiable as WTC-related chronic respiratory disorder (fumes/vapors) and/or as a medically associated health condition to a certifiable WTC-related health condition under certain lung disease categories.

<sup>5</sup> Evidence supporting a diagnosis of WTC-exacerbated COPD consists of one or more of the following: (1) a record of physician diagnosis of COPD made prior to the individual's 9/11 exposure; (2) history of symptoms of chronic cough, sputum production and/or dyspnea experienced prior to the individual's 9/11 exposure; (3) a history of recurrent bronchopulmonary infections experienced prior to the individual's 9/11 exposure; (4) a record of pulmonary function tests showing chronic airways obstruction existing prior to the individual's 9/11 exposure; and/or (5) a record of imaging studies consistent with COPD existing prior to the individual's 9/11 exposure.

Upper Airway Inflammatory Disorders <sup>6</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History (Symptoms) &amp; Physical Exam Findings*</li> <li>• Radiographic/imaging (CT of the sinuses)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Association of Family Physicians Diagnosing Rhinitis: Allergic vs. Nonallergic (2006) <a href="http://www.aafp.org/afp/2006/0501/p1583.html">http://www.aafp.org/afp/2006/0501/p1583.html</a></li> <li>• American Academy of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery. Clinical Practice Guidelines on Adult Sinusitis(2007) <a href="http://oto.sagepub.com/content/137/3/365.full">http://oto.sagepub.com/content/137/3/365.full</a></li> </ul>
Gastroesophageal Reflux Disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History (Symptoms) &amp; Physical Findings* <u>and/or</u></li> <li>• Response to therapy* <u>and/or</u></li> <li>• Endoscopic evidence of esophagitis, stricture or Barrett’s metaplasia*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) Medical Position Statement on the Management of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease(2008) <a href="http://www.gastrojournal.org/article/S0016-5085(08)01606-5/fulltext">http://www.gastrojournal.org/article/S0016-5085(08)01606-5/fulltext</a></li> </ul>
Sleep Apnea (Obstructive Sleep Apnea) "exacerbated by, or related to, a health condition" in Diagnostic Essentials, -- <u>excluding</u> MSD and Malignant Neoplasms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History (Symptoms) &amp; Physical Findings</li> <li>• Interpretation of a polysomnogram or sleep study by a sleep medicine specialist or pulmonologist, showing evidence of Obstructive Sleep Apnea*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Academy of Sleep Medicine(AASM) Clinical Guideline for the Evaluation, Management and Long-term Care of Obstructive Sleep Apnea in Adults (2009) <a href="http://www.aasmnet.org/Resources/clinical_guidelines/OSA_Adults.pdf">http://www.aasmnet.org/Resources/clinical_guidelines/OSA_Adults.pdf</a></li> </ul>
Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs)— Heavy Lifting or Repetitive Strain <sup>7</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History (Symptoms) &amp; Physical Findings* <u>and/or</u></li> <li>• Radiographic/Imaging Evidence* <u>and/or</u></li> <li>• Electrodiagnostic testing (e.g., Electromyography and Nerve Conduction Velocity study)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) Endorsed Guideline - American Pain Society Clinical Guideline for the Evaluation and Management of Low Back Pain (Diagnosis and Treatment of Low Back Pain: A Joint Clinical Practice Guideline from the American College of Physicians and the American Pain Society)(2007) <a href="http://annals.org/article.aspx?article_id=736814">http://annals.org/article.aspx?article_id=736814</a></li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup>Upper airway inflammatory disorders is a broad category of health conditions; however, for the purpose of verification for VCF claims, the category is limited to include only the following conditions: chronic rhinosinusitis or chronic rhinitis (either irritant or allergic), chronic nasopharyngitis, chronic laryngitis, and upper airway hyperactivity.

<sup>7</sup>In the case of a WTC responder only (i.e., not in the case of a survivor) who received any treatment for a WTC-related musculoskeletal disorder *on or before September 11, 2003*, the list of health conditions that can be verified includes: (1) low back pain; (2) carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS); and (3) other musculoskeletal disorders. The term ‘WTC-related musculoskeletal disorder’ means a chronic or recurrent disorder of the musculoskeletal system caused by *heavy lifting or repetitive strain* on the joints or musculoskeletal system occurring during rescue or recovery efforts in the New York City disaster area in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. See 42 U.S.C. § 300mm-22(a)(4).



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons(AAOS) Clinical Practice Guideline on the Diagnosis of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (2007) <a href="http://www.aaos.org/research/guidelines/CTS_guideline.pdf">http://www.aaos.org/research/guidelines/CTS_guideline.pdf</a></li> </ul>
Malignant Neoplasm: <i>General</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History (Symptoms) &amp; Physical Findings</li> <li>Radiographic/Imaging evidence</li> <li>Chemistry Laboratory</li> <li>Tissue biopsy or pathology report*</li> </ul> <p><b>Exception:</b> Tissue biopsy is not required for certain neoplasms. See NCCN guidelines for information about these neoplasms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines <a href="http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/f_guidelines.asp">http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/f_guidelines.asp</a></li> <li>National Cancer Institute (NCI) <a href="http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/detection/pathology-reports">http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/detection/pathology-reports</a></li> <li>Borowitz M, Westra W, Cooley LD, et al. Pathology and laboratory medicine. In: Abeloff MD, Armitage JO, Niederhuber JE, Kastan MB, McKenna WG, editors. <i>Clinical Oncology</i>. 3rd ed. London: Churchill Livingstone, 2004.</li> </ul>
Malignant Neoplasm: <i>In-Situ Neoplasm</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History (Symptoms) &amp; Physical Findings</li> <li>Radiographic/Imaging evidence</li> <li>Chemistry Laboratory</li> <li>Tissue biopsy or pathology report*</li> </ul> <p>All malignant in-situ neoplasms are eligible for certification except the following: (1) lobular carcinoma in-situ of the breast (except pleomorphic lobular carcinoma); (2) in-situ carcinoma of the gallbladder; (3) colorectal adenomatous polyp with area of in-situ carcinoma; and (4) in-situ carcinoma of the cervix.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines <a href="http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/f_guidelines.asp">http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/f_guidelines.asp</a></li> <li>National Cancer Institute (NCI) <a href="http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/detection/pathology-reports">http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/detection/pathology-reports</a></li> </ul>
Malignant Neoplasm: <i>Unknown primary</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History (Symptoms) &amp; Physical Findings</li> <li>Radiographic/Imaging evidence</li> <li>Chemistry Laboratory</li> <li>Tissue biopsy or pathology report*</li> </ul> <p>When the diagnosis under review is a metastatic neoplasm of an unknown primary, a diagnostic work-up summary is required to demonstrate that an appropriate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ettinger DS, Agulnik M, Cates JM, Cristea M, Denlinger CS, Eaton KD, et al. Occult Primary. Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology. J Natl Compr Canc Netw. 2011;9(12):1358-95.</li> </ul>

	<p>search for the primary malignancy was done.</p> <p>When the diagnostic work-up does not reveal a primary site, the neoplasm shall be classified as a neoplasm of the metastatic site.</p> <p>When the diagnostic work-up does reveal a primary site, the neoplasm shall be classified as a neoplasm of the primary site.</p> <p>To ensure clarity about the condition for which verification is requested, the medical determination should only state the final diagnosis and the date of this diagnosis.</p>	
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**September 11th Victim Compensation Fund  
Exhibit A to the Eligibility Form For Personal Injury Claimants  
Authorization for Release of Medical Records**

**Instructions for Claimant** - Please list all doctors and health care providers who were involved in diagnosing and treating your injury, as well as any other entities (e.g., insurance companies, workers' compensation programs, pension programs) that may have medical information in Section 1. Then, please print your name and address and sign in the block in Section 2. Once you have completed and signed this authorization, please make a copy of your signed form and maintain it with your personal records.

**When you sign this document, you give permission to your doctors, health care providers or other entities listed below to disclose your health information to the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF), the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), and the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program administered by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)<sup>1</sup> for purposes of evaluating your claim for compensation to the VCF. By signing this document, you also give permission to the VCF to disclose your health information to the WTC Health Program and to the WTC Health Program to disclose your health information to the VCF for the purpose of evaluating your claim for compensation under the VCF.**

Please note that you may revoke this Authorization at any time, except to the extent that the VCF, WTC Health Program, or the providers listed below have already acted based on this Authorization. To revoke this authorization, you must write to the providers or entities listed below and to the VCF at the address at the bottom of page 3 of this form.<sup>2</sup> This authorization is valid for six (6) years from the date signed or upon your written termination, whichever is sooner.

Your doctors and medical providers may not condition treatment, payment, enrollment or eligibility for benefits on whether you sign this Authorization. However, the VCF may not be able to evaluate your claim if you do not authorize the release of your medical records. Your decision to sign or not sign this authorization also has no impact on your eligibility for enrollment, monitoring, treatment, or other WTC Health Program benefits.

Your providers and certain other entities are required by the Privacy Rule under HIPAA to protect your health information. When they provide the information to the VCF it will not be protected by this same Privacy Rule. However, the VCF and DOJ will continue to protect the confidentiality of your medical records to the extent they are permitted to do so under another Federal law, the Privacy Act.<sup>3</sup> The VCF will not disclose your identifiable health information that it receives under this Authorization without your written consent except where authorized to do so by law.

**Information to be disclosed by your health care providers (or other entities listed below) to the Victim Compensation Fund includes, but is not limited to, application or enrollment information, eligibility information, claims records, claim status, pension records and files, entire patient medical records, patient histories, office notes (except psychotherapy notes), test results, radiology studies, films, referrals, consults, billing records, insurance records, and records sent to your doctors and medical care providers by other health care providers. Your health care**

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this document, all references to the WTC Health Program also include NIOSH to the extent it administers the WTC Health Program.

<sup>2</sup> If you wish to revoke this authorization because you do not want the VCF and WTC Health Program to exchange your health information for purposes of evaluating your claim for compensation under the VCF, then you only need to write to the VCF.

<sup>3</sup> The WTC Health Program will protect your health information pursuant to HIPAA and/or any other relevant laws and regulations.





**September 11th Victim Compensation Fund  
Exhibit A to the Eligibility Form For Personal Injury Claimants  
Authorization for Release of Medical Records**

**Section 2 - Claimant information and signature.**

[Grid for Claimant's Last Name]

Claimant's Last Name

[Grid for First Name]

First Name

[Grid for Middle Name]

Middle Name

[Grid for Mailing Address]

Mailing Address

[Grid for Mailing Address continued]

Mailing Address continued

[Grid for Apartment/Suite Number]

Apartment/Suite Number

[Grid for City]

City

[Grid for State/Province]

State/Province

[Grid for Zip/Postal Code]

Zip/Postal Code

[Grid for Social Security or National ID Number]

Social Security or National ID Number

[Grid for Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)]

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)

[Grid for Telephone Number (Home)]

Telephone Number (Home)

[Grid for Telephone Number (Work)]

Telephone Number (Work)

[Grid for Telephone Number (Mobile)]

Telephone Number (Mobile)

[Grid for Email Address]

Email Address

**This information shall be sent to:**

**September 11th Victim Compensation Fund  
P.O. Box 34500  
Washington, DC 20043**

