

Neurotoxicology Services – East TN

Jack E. Scariano Jr., MD, PLLC, DBAS

Dear Patient,

We have over 40 years of treating and testing neurological patients with neurotoxicology problems in East Tennessee. We have seen over 2000 patients who have worked at the Oakridge, Paducah and Savannah River Nuclear sites - we are approved by the U.S. Department of Labor as providers.

We understand that many former employees from the Plants have been unable to receive neurological evaluations for their conditions and have documentation of their symptoms so they can receive the benefits they are entitled to from the Department of Labor. There are many different exposures to multiple toxins at the Plants and it is often very complex to discern what is the best avenue to apply for benefits. I have personally seen how the process of obtaining benefits from the U.S. Department of labor is very abstruse, with multiple internal rules, regulations and various ladders you must go through. For many years I have worked with attorney John Agee, he understands the whole process and I highly recommend him assist you in this arduous process of the application for benefits.

We are able to do neurological workups on patients who work at the DOL plants with certain limitations:

1. We will only work up and treat neurological problems. Some may or may not relate to any toxin exposure at the Oakridge Plants.
2. We accept most insurance (except TennCare). We accept contract fees for office visits, however you must be up-to-date with all deductibles and co-pays at the time of service and before each visit. Most tests requested in the neurological workup are covered under Medicare and personal insurances. However, the DOL requires other tests in the initial evaluation which may not be covered by insurance at all or only partially covered but reduced in price. The four most common tests not covered are:
 - a. MMSE-\$75
 - b. Comprehensive Cognitive Evaluation- \$300
 - c. Vestibular Testing-\$200
 - d. Nerve Biopsy- \$200
3. We schedule at Outpatient Diagnostic Center for all scans. Other providers we can use include: Provision Imaging, Roane Country Medical Center and Parkwest. You will need to bring copies of your imaging disc from all locations. It takes us many hours of administrative work to obtain

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prior authorization and get tests scheduled. If an imaging provider other than ODC is requested, there will be a \$25 charge for the additional staff time.

4. Completion of disability forms:
 - a. 1-2 pages is a \$25 charge
 - b. Over 2 pages is a \$50 charge
5. Missed appointments without 24-hour notice will have a charge of \$100
6. As a new patient for neurotoxicology services we will receive access to a unique and specific email for us and yourself, this way you can track the process of your neurological evaluation.
7. We use the cheapest medication options we can find to treat your specific illness. We have samples of new medications that are often very helpful, however these medications are often very expensive. If you respond well to samples of newer medications and your insurance will not cover it, there are programs to help acquire these medications that we can assist in helping you apply for. These programs will help get these medications at a drastically reduced rate or free. This process of applying to these programs is time-consuming and expensive for our office. For assistance in applying for medication coverage under a specialty program, a \$50 one-time charge will be applied once you receive approval for the program.
8. The process of neurological evaluation and formation of diagnosis and treatment plan takes approximately two months. Once we have established a medical diagnosis and treatment plan, your basic medical records will reflect this diagnosis and treatment plan and possible specific etiologies which could have caused your illness. This will be part of your updated medical records, which you can take to an agent who works to certify retired employees and get them their benefits. There are numerous agents in East Tennessee area and several of my employees are in the process of becoming a certified agent.
9. Often times, the DOL wants specific answers based on time, duration, location and probability of these toxins being the cause of neurological problems you are experiencing. It is not legal to do medical-legal causation evaluations and charge it to insurance. This must be an out-of-pocket expense established by official regulation. To scientifically determine the actual and true causation of a condition is a very complex process, it usually takes several hours of work and research. If this is required by the DOL for your case there will be a cost of \$1000 paid in

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advanced. If the DOL returns and wants additional information after the causation (more likely than not) research, there will be an additional \$250 cost for addendums and additional work. You can also take your basic medical records to an agent or attorney and they will help you take care of further evaluations and research.

We only treat and diagnosis neurological problems and the problems which are secondary to the neurological disease. We do not diagnosis or treat:

- Cancer with exception of brain cancer
- Lung diseases
- Internal medicine diseases such as Diabetes and High Blood pressure
- Autoimmune diseases
- Mental health conditions such as Bipolar or Depression
- End of life treatment such as hospice
- Sleep Disorders

Neurological conditions we diagnosis and treat:

- Parkinson's Disease
- Neuropathy
- Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS)
- Myasthenia Gravis
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Spinal Cord injury and Spinal nerve root lesions
- Epilepsy
- Dementia
- Stroke

It is our policy that we do not prescribe narcotic medications for treatment of pain. Chronic pain issues are referred to a local pain treatment center. Anti-anxiety meds are only used short-term and strictly under the guidelines of the DSM.

This office and our parent company 'Jack E. Scariano, Jr, MD, PLLC', work only as consultants. We do not have after-hour care or telephone line. If you have a medical emergency, you need to go to the nearest

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emergency room to have your symptoms evaluated. If you feel you are experiencing side effects from a medication, immediately discontinue use of it. If symptoms continue, go to the emergency room.

As of 2022, In Knoxville there are no neurologists who have a private practice and admit to a hospital. The only neurological groups which have after-hour coverage are owned by UT hospital, Covenant Hospital and Tennova Hospital. These groups have in-hospital neurological specialists who care for any neurological problems that present as an emergency or needs further care in a hospital setting. We are general neurologist's and when we see highly unusual or deeply complex neurological problems, we will refer those patients to the appropriate specialist. We use various locations in Knoxville, Greater Tennessee, as well as other providers throughout the United States for sub-speciality referral resources.

It is my understanding that the award for neurotoxicology illnesses breaks down as:

1. Department of Labor awards \$2,500 for percentage of impairment, more comprehensive home health and coverage of medical treatment and costs incurred
2. Personal injury settlements from Neurotoxicological Illness generally range from \$50,000 to \$1,000,0000
3. Workman's comp only approved by a specific carrier; awards are limited to \$60,000, plus future medical costs.
4. Other costs related to obtaining an impairment under the DOL or insurance for neurological problems are the 2-10% of expenses.
 - a. For example, if a patient receives a 50% impairment rating due to a stroke, the settlement would be \$125,000. You must subtract your attorney fee's (\$12,250), as well as expenses (\$2,500)

Once you have been approved by the DOL or other insurers for disability and continued medical treatment, we will be happy to follow you on an on-going basis under the payment schedule of the insured. It is typical that patients need to be seen every six- months and have full evaluation and retesting of on-going impairment every two years.

Originating from New Orleans, Louisiana, I have been a practicing medicine since 1975 after graduating from LSU medical school in 1975. I am now solely in private practice for but I have studied and worked in clinics and hospitals across the country. My special interests include: movement disorders, Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis and the treatment of chronic neuropathic pain. Mina Farrar, is our diligent nurse practitioner

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who joined the practice in 2015. With our partnership and dedication to patient care, we are steadfast in providing timely and much-needed neurological care for the employees of the DOL located in East Tennessee.

This is a very complex process with multiple layers of regulations designed to limit and prolong the amount of time it takes to get your settlement. This process of medical evaluation and then patient partnership with John Agee have proven the most effective approach I've seen in acquiring benefits.

Patient Signature and Date

Patient printed name