

LOVE CANAL MEDICAL FUND

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BULLETIN - HEALTH NEWS AND BENEFITS

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Results of New York State Health Department Love Canal Health Study

The New York State Department of Health (DOH) has conducted a follow-up study of former Love Canal residents. This study is different than the one conducted before families were evacuated. No one filled out questionnaires; instead the information collected by the researchers came from computer data bases operated by state agencies. Here is how these databases work. When children are born, their weight, size and any obvious birth defect are recorded and sent to the state health department to be entered into a birth records data base. The same is true with cancer and with deaths. When someone is diagnosed with cancer, the doctor's office will send that information to the state health department to enter into the cancer registry. Similarly, when someone dies, information about the death (including the cause) is sent to the state death registry.

In addition to the health related information collected for this study, the New York State Department of Health is also looking at blood samples taken in 1978-1980 and analyzing them. This blood study has not yet been released for us to review, but is expected sometime in 2008.

Here are a few facts about the study:

- Almost all of the Love Canal residents (97%) were successfully traced through the registries. There are 6,026 residents in this study.
- Health information was collected for different forms of cancer, various reproductive outcomes, and mortality (deaths).
- In identifying the number of birth defects, there was a serious problem. The New York State birth defects registry did not exist until 1983, well after many women at Love Canal gave birth to children with birth defects. These birth defects were not included in the study. In addition, there was no way to track birth outcomes in children related to Love Canal males because only the mother's name is entered into the birth records database. The father's name is not included.

Here are some of the key conclusions:

There were more birth defects than expected in Love Canal children born between 1983 and 1996. In fact, the risk of birth defects among Love Canal children was twice as high as that for children born in Niagara County.

More female than male babies were born to Love Canal mothers. The importance of this finding is that this result is similar to findings in Vietnam veterans and other populations exposed to dioxin, a highly toxic chemical found at Love Canal.

Love Canal residents were more likely to die from acute myocardial infarction (heart attacks) than New York State residents (excluding New York City).

In addition, there were increases in some causes of death and in different types of cancer at Love Canal when compared to all people who live in New York State (excluding New York City). Only a few of these increases were considered to be statistically significant, though they are worth noting. Statistical significance is a measure scientists use to be sure that the link between two groups is likely real and not just due to chance.

To be clear, these diseases may or may not be related to living at Love Canal. But because they occurred more often in Love Canal residents, we thought it was important for you to know which diseases are increased even just slightly, so that you can take cautionary steps to watch for symptoms and alert your primary care professional to be aware. This does not mean that you will develop these diseases, just that you should be sensitive to the symptoms related to these diseases in order to identify them early on if the disease does develop.

Getting your yearly physical exam is another step you can take to recognize symptoms before they become serious problems. Remember, the LCMF will pay up to \$250 a year towards your physical exam with no deductible applied.

On the next page are the diseases that were increased in the NY State DOH health study when compared to rates in people who live in New York State (excluding New York City).

1) Causes of death that were increased

- All causes
- Infectious diseases, specifically due to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
- Neoplasms (cancer), specifically lymphatic and hematologic cancers
- All diseases of the circulatory system combined, as well as:
 - Chronic rheumatic heart disease
 - Acute myocardial infarction
 - Other acute forms of ischemic heart disease
 - Disease of the veins and lymphatics
- All diseases of the respiratory system combined, as well as:
 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
 - Other respiratory system disease
- All diseases of the digestive system combined, as well as:
 - Non-infective enteritis and colitis
- All diseases of the musculoskeletal system combined
- Congenital anomalies (birth defects)

2) Types of cancers that were increased

- All digestive organs and peritoneum combined, and specifically in the:
 - Stomach
 - Rectum
 - Liver
 - Gall bladder
- All respiratory and intrathoracic organs combined, and specifically in the:
 - Trachea, bronchus, and lung
- Genitourinary organs, specifically in the:
 - Ovary
 - Testes
 - Bladder
 - Kidney
- Other sites, specifically in the:
 - Thyroid gland
 - Other endocrine glands

— Lymphatic and hematopoietic tissue, specifically in the:

Myeloma and immunoproliferative

3) Reproductive outcomes that were increased

- Congenital malformations (birth defects)
 - Low birth weights
 - Pre-term births
 - Small for gestational age

Given this unsettling information the Love Canal Medical Fund is urging everyone to take advantage of our Annual Physical Exam benefit.

The coverage on diagnostic testing is extensive. Although we do not cover everything, the plan does cover most diagnostic testing. You can check your medical benefits plan document or contact us for information or questions about coverage at: Albert F. Stager, Inc., 3815 California Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127-2239. Or you can call our claims adjuster, Mr. Jack Foy, toll free at 1-800-427-1384.

If you did not receive a form to submit your annual physical exam expenses or misplaced your copy, you can obtain another copy from the website at: www.LCMF.org and print one, or write the LCMF at P.O. Box 540, Grand Island, NY 14072.

The form for a Yearly Physical Exam is submitted to Albert F. Stager, at the above listed address, the same as your other claims. The Love Canal Medical Fund Board encourages everyone to take the time for this important disease preventative step—an annual physical exam.

Love Canal Medical Fund Contact Information:

If you have any questions about whether your illness is covered by the Fund, please let us know using e-mail, the telephone, or the U.S. postal system. The LCMF has recently hired a part time assistant Tom Reinagel to respond to inquiries and assist with some of the administrative tasks.

Our e-mail address is lcmfund@yahoo.com and our phone number is 716-773-6578. Please leave a message and we'll make sure that your call receives a quick response. Or write us at the Love Canal Medical Fund, P.O. Box 540, Grand Island, NY 14072.

Love Canal Medical Fund, Inc.

P.O. Box 540 • Grand Island, NY 14072

November 29, 2007

Dear Beneficiary:

My name is Tom Reinagel and I was recently hired as the Administrator of the Love Canal Medical Fund, Inc (FUND). As Administrator, I respond to beneficiary inquiries related to medical conditions associated with their Love Canal residence.

Another role as Administrator is to help recruit and train new Board Members. The Love Canal Medical Fund, Inc. is seeking new Board Members (there are 12 currently).

Beneficiaries of the Fund and/or persons with health insurance administration, medical, social service or legal backgrounds who would like to help continue the Fund's mission to serve the 1,322 beneficiaries listed in the litigation are being sought. If this is an area of service that interests you (all Board Members are volunteers) please begin by calling (716) 773-6578 and leaving your name and telephone number. I will return your call and provide additional details along with answering any questions you have.

There are a number of ways you can learn more about the Love Canal Medical Fund Inc. or contact me with questions or requests for assistance:

- Visit the Love Canal website at www.lcmfund.org. Here you will find photographs of the area, official reports, and the ability to download claim forms.
- Send me an e-mail at lcmfund@yahoo.com.
- Call our answering service at (716) 773-6578 and leave a detailed message including the best times to return your call.
- Write to the Love Canal Medical Fund, Inc. at PO Box 540, Grand Island, NY 14072. Please include your telephone number for faster follow up.

Shortly you will be receiving another mailing from the Love Canal Medical Fund, Inc. containing a copy of the revised Medical Benefits Plan, a Medical Benefits Plan Summary sheet, and a Medical Claim form. Please be sure to review this material and keep it handy for future reference.

Sincerely,

Tom Reinagel

Thomas H. Reinagel
Administrator

Enclosure

