Extraction of natural gas in Pennsylvania has been part of the landscape since the late 1800s. Natural gas development in the Marcellus Shale formation by way of unconventional horizontal fracking began in 2002. Rapid growth in this industry has resulted in significantly higher levels of air emissions and water use than previous methods of extraction. Accumulation of human health studies related to this latest method of gas extraction has been building.

The Environmental Health Project (EHP) is a nonprofit public health organization that assists and supports residents of Southwestern Pennsylvania and beyond who believe their health has been, or could be, impacted by unconventional natural gas development (UNGD).

ARE YOU SEEING THESE SYMPTOMS IN YOUR PATIENTS?
Sleep Disruption, Headache, Throat Irritation, Stress/Anxiety, Cough, Shortness of Breath, Sinus Problems, Fatigue, Nausea, Wheezing, Itchy Eyes, Weakness, Drowsiness, Abdominal Pain….

“Increasing evidence demonstrates an association between health symptoms and exposure to unconventional natural gas development (UNGD). The purpose of this study is to describe the health of adults in communities with intense UNGD who presented for evaluation of symptoms. … Our findings confirm earlier studies and add to the growing body of evidence of the association between symptoms and exposure to UNGD.”

The study can be accessed HERE.
SUGGESTED DIAGNOSTIC CODING FOR EXPOSURE

If you suspect that patient symptoms are related to environmental exposure, suggested diagnostic ICD-10 coding for the exposure can be accessed HERE.

WHERE YOUR PATIENTS LIVE

Ask your patients if they live, work, or learn, near shale gas development. A sample survey that you can use can be found HERE.

POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECT DUE TO INHALATION

Not all chemicals or chemical compounds generated by UNGD are known, but some of those that are known and whose effects on human health has been studied are listed HERE.

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Services offered by EHP

- Medical ToolKit – Screening & Assessment Tools – Reference Materials
- CME/CEU Credits
- National Shale Gas & Oil Health Registry
- Latest health studies related to UOGD