

THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH AND SHALE GAS DEVELOPMENT

A NEWSLETTER FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS

Issue 1: Symptoms to watch for in Shale Gas Communities

1st Quarter | 2018

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).

Pennsylvania Medical Society Support for a Moratorium on Fracking **[RESOLUTION 16-206 | Oct 2016](#)**

...WHEREAS, As physicians of Pennsylvania, we care first and foremost about the health of our community and believe that when an activity raises potential harm to human health, precautionary measures should be taken until cause and effect relationships are fully established scientifically; ...

RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania Medical Society urge and support a moratorium on new natural gas extraction using high-volume hydraulic fracturing in Pennsylvania; ...

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](#)



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