



Rare Cancers

John Howard, M.D.

Administrator, World Trade Center Health Program

May 5, 2014

The List of WTC-related health conditions (List) found in the WTC Health Program regulations¹ contains the category “Rare Cancers.”

All types of cancer that are not individually named on the List, and that meet the threshold incidence rate of less than 15 cases per 100,000 persons per year based on age-adjusted 2005-2009 average annual data, are considered rare cancers. These cancers are eligible for certification by the WTC Health Program. Below are cancer types that have been determined to meet the threshold incidence rate for rare cancers. However, this compilation is not exhaustive. Other types of cancer which meet the definition of a rare cancer, but which are not on the List or identified below, may also be considered for certification.

Therefore, for the purposes of the WTC Health Program, the Administrator has determined that the category “Rare Cancers” includes, but is not limited to, the following types of cancer:

- Malignant neoplasms of the --
 - adrenal gland and other endocrine glands and related structures²
 - anus and anal canal²
 - bone and articular cartilage²
 - breast among men²
 - gallbladder and other parts of biliary tract²
 - meninges, brain, spinal cord, cranial nerves, and other parts of central nervous system²
 - pancreas²
 - penis and testis²
 - placenta³
 - small intestine²
 - thymus³
 - vulva, vagina, and cervix uteri (invasive only)⁴
- Malignant neuroendocrine neoplasm, including carcinoid tumors⁵
- Myeloid neoplasms, including myelodysplastic syndromes, myeloproliferative neoplasms, myelodysplastic/myeloproliferative neoplasms, and myeloid malignancies associated with eosinophilia and abnormalities of growth factor receptors derived from platelets or fibroblasts⁴

¹ 42 C.F.R. Part 88

² Copeland G, Lake A, Firth R, Wohler B, Wu XC, Stroup A, Russell C, Boyuk K, Schymura M, Hofferkamp J, Kohler B (eds.) [2012]. Cancer in North America: 2005-2009. Volume One: Combined Cancer Incidence for the United States, Canada and North America. Springfield, IL: North American Association of Central Cancer Registries, Inc.

³ The number of cases in the time interval was too few to calculate the average 2005-2009 age-adjusted annual incidence rate, but it is < 15/100,000.

⁴ Howlader N, Noone AM, Krapcho M, Neyman N, Aminou R, Waldron W, Altekruse SF, Kosary CL, Ruhl J, Tatalovich Z, Cho H, Mariotto A, Eisner MP, Lewis DR, Chen HS, Feuer EJ, Cronin KA (eds.) [2012]. SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2009 (Vintage 2009 Populations), National Cancer Institute. Bethesda, MD.

⁵ Tsikitis VL, Wertheim BC, Guerrero MA [2012]. Trends of Incidence and Survival of Gastrointestinal Neuroendocrine Tumors in the United States: A SEER Analysis. J Cancer 3:292-302