

Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program

Occasionally, public health emergencies and security dangers threaten our country.

To combat these threats, the government supports the development of countermeasures, which are vaccines, medications, and other items used in response to public health emergencies and threats. In the unlikely event that you or someone you know experiences a serious injury after use of covered countermeasures, you may be eligible for benefits through the Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program (CICP).

About the CICP

Since Fiscal Year 2010, the CICP has provided compensation for serious injuries that occur as the result of the administration or use of certain countermeasures. Compensation may include unreimbursed medical expenses (expenses that health insurance did not cover), lost employment income, and the survivor death benefit.

What Is a Countermeasure?

A countermeasure is a vaccine, medication, device, or other item that is used to prevent, diagnose, or treat a public health emergency or a security threat. For example, the 2009 H1N1 vaccine used during the 2009-2010 flu season to prevent the H1N1 virus was a countermeasure. Countermeasures save lives. Most people who receive a countermeasure have no serious problems, but like any medicine, they can cause side effects - most of which are rare and mild.

Covered Countermeasures

Federal declarations specify which countermeasures are covered by the CICP. The following are examples of covered public health threats:

- COVID-19
- Marburg
- Nerve Agent or Certain Insecticide (Organophosphorus/Carbamate Poisoning)
- Zika
- Ebola
- Pandemic Influenza A
- Smallpox
- Anthrax
- Botulism
- Acute Radiation Syndrome

Who Is Eligible?

The following may be eligible for Program benefits:

- The injured countermeasure recipient
- Certain survivor(s) of a deceased injured countermeasure recipient
- The estate of a deceased injured countermeasure recipient

Please note that the CICP is the payer of last resort. This means that it only covers expenses or provides benefits that other third-party payers, such as health insurance, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or Workers' Compensation programs, don't have an obligation to pay.

HOW TO REQUEST BENEFITS

If you have been seriously injured by a covered countermeasure, you may be eligible for compensation. To determine eligibility, generally you must submit a Request for Benefits Package to the CICP within one year of receiving or using the countermeasure.

You can download the PDF forms by visiting: www.hrsa.gov/cicp/filing-benefits/index.html.

You can also call 1-855-266-CICP (1-855-266-2427) to request that a paper copy be mailed to you.