



HEALTH WATCH

c/o New York State AFL-CIO
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Dr. Peter Pisters, M.D.
President
MD Anderson Cancer Center
1515 Holcombe Blvd.
Houston, TX 77030

June 10, 2024

Dear Dr. Pisters,

As the Executive Director of 911 Health Watch Inc, I am writing to you regarding MD Anderson Cancer Centers of Texas refusal to participate in the World Trade Center Health Program Network and provide cancer care for 9/11 responders and survivors in the World Trade Center Health Program. Reportedly it is the position of MD Anderson Texas that unless the WTC Health Program agrees to pay you MD Anderson more than they can legally pay and more than what every other major cancer center that does participate and does provide cancer treatment to 9/11 responders and survivors in the country has agreed to take.

911 Health Watch is an independent, 501(c)3 watch group, established to monitor the program's created by the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, including the World Trade Center Health Program.

The World Trade Center Health Program was created by Congress in 2010 to provide medical monitoring and treatment for 9/11 responders and survivors and has over 130,000 members, in every State and in 434 out of 435 Congressional Districts with over 600 members residing in Texas.

We are deeply concerned with MD Anderson of Texas refusal to participate in the World Trade Center Health Program and provide cancer care to 36 Texans in the WTC Health Program who are currently receiving care from MD Anderson.

As I understand MD Anderson's position, you are not willing to adhere to the WTC Program's reimbursement guidelines, which nearly every other major cancer care center in the country has accepted. This includes Moffitt Cancer Care Center, Roswell Park Cancer Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering and even MD Anderson of Florida, who all accept the program's rates.

Why does MD Anderson feel the need to charge more than Sloan Kettering?

And why would you deny the heroes and survivors of 9/11 cancer care, that they would receive if they lived anywhere else but Texas.

Your position is that you are seeking to be paid 85% of whatever you bill, which means you would have no limit on reimbursement rate since you determine what your bill is with no limitation. That is a reimbursement scheme that the Federal Government cannot agree to.

While MD Anderson Texas had been allowing access to your facilities for program members through the use of cumbersome single-case agreements—which require an immense amount of paperwork, impose additional costs, and most importantly delays access to care—it is our understanding that because of MD Anderson's continued refusal to take the same reimbursement as other cancer centers, that even the single-case option can no longer legally be utilized by the WTC Health Program and with that over 30 Texans currently receiving cancer care at MD Anderson will have to find alternatives for care.

Dr. Pisters, you need to use your authority to reverse this position and have MD Anderson Texas accept the same reimbursement rate that other cancer care providers have accepted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Chevat', is written over the printed name.

Benjamin Chevat
Executive Director

cc. Senator John Cornyn
Senator Ted Cruz