

What is Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) ?

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) also known as Chemical Sensitivity/Toxic Chemical Injury is a painful, debilitating chronic medical condition characterized by extreme sensitivity to chemicals. Reactions may be immediate or delayed and can be life-threatening. People with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity are made extremely ill by the slightest exposure to chemicals found in everyday life, such as, but not limited to pesticides, insecticides, fumigants, fertilizers, household cleaning products, air fresheners, deodorizers, glue, self-adhesives, carpets, new building materials, paint, ink, emission from photocopiers machines, inkless pads, carbonless paper, automobiles exhausts, gasoline, fumes from barbecue grill, wood burning, perfumes, scented products, carbon paper, shampoos, hair products, beauty products, incense, dry cleaning and virtually everything else in the environment.

What causes Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) /Toxic Chemical Injury?

Recent Scientific/Genetic Research found that Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) / Toxic Chemical Injury, is caused by a combination of variation of genes, and exposure to toxic chemicals in the environment. It also has been found that numerous toxic chemicals are known to alter genes into susceptible genes. Once genes have been altered all it takes is subsequent exposure to any toxic chemical to trigger MCS.

How prevalent is Multiple Chemical Sensitivity/Toxic Chemical Injury?

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) is an alarmingly increasing public health problem affecting over 48 million men, women, children in the U.S. Over 30% of the population, worldwide, including young children, have become sensitized following exposure to toxic chemicals in the environment. Dangerous pesticides used in schools, housing, offices, malls, lawns, public parks and facilities, contribute greatly to the incidence of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)/Toxic Chemical Injury. The United States of America, Australia,

Canada, China, Denmark, England, France, Austria, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, Luxembourg, are among the countries greatly affected by MCS.

Is Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)/Toxic Chemical injury, recognized?

YES. Multiple Chemical sensitivity (MCS) is recognized by many Federal Governmental Agencies, including the Social Security Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, The Americans with Disabilities Act, the US Access-Board, an independent Federal Agency devoted to accessibility for persons with Disabilities and countless Governmental Agencies and Commissions. More and more U.S cities and counties, are making accommodations under ADA of fragrance-free meetings to make their premises accessible for people with MCS. It is important to note that the US Access-Board has adopted on July 26, 2000, a Fragrance-free environment for persons disabled by MCS, and has issued extensive Guidelines of Accommodations for persons disabled by MCS and Electromagnetic Sensitivity (EMS)

<http://www.access-board.gov/news/ieq.htm>

<http://www.access-board.gov/about/policies/fragrance.htm>

<http://web.archive.org/web/20060714233448/http://ieq.nibs.org/om>

Just to name a few, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has officially adopted a fragrance-free policy in all its offices nationwide, and has mentioned several times chemical sensitivity.

<http://www.americanchronicle.com/articles/view/154089>

In several other countries such as Germany, MCS has been officially recognized by the German Federal Ministry of Health , as a physical disease in the WHO International Classification of Diseases ICD -10-GM (2008) T78.4 as well as by the

Austria Federal Ministry of Health, ICD-10 , T78.4 both under Chapter 19, (injuries, poisoning, and certain other consequences of toxic causes) the Ministry of Health in Luxembourg ICD-10 , T78.4, and by the Japanese Ministry of Health, ICD-10 , T 65.9 (poisoning and other unspecified substances, toxic substances, unspecified). The Government of South Australia , Department of Health , has issued on May 2010, 10 pages Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Guidelines for South Australian Hospitals, the Ministry of Health in Spain has established in 2011 a consensus on MCS, and the European Union is taking measures for MCS.

Employers, schools, offices, hotels, stores, doctors and dentists, hospitals, health care facilities, and other public places and transportations, must make their premises accessible and provide reasonable accommodations as required by Law, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for people disabled by MCS. The accommodations should be tailored to the specific needs of a person disabled by MCS and worked out satisfactorily between that person and the establishment. Due to the nature of the disability, fast service should be granted for persons disabled with MCS, to avoid potentially life-threatening reactions. It is common for an establishment not accessible for persons disabled by MCS to modify its policy and provide services at the home of the disabled person. The U.S. Governors of over 40 states. have proclaimed Multiple Chemical Sensitivity/Toxic Chemical Injury Awareness Month. Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) Awareness Month has been proclaimed for 10 years in a row, in the State of Florida by respective Governors including Governor Jeb Bush, who proclaimed it for 7 years in a row, 14 years in the State of Washington , out of which proclaimed 8 years in a row by Governor Christine O'Gregoire. Some of the states where Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) /Toxic Chemical Injury have been proclaimed are: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Maryland, Missouri, Minnesota, Mississippi , Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Washington.

Remarkably, the respective Mayors of Broward County (FL) have proclaimed MCS Awareness Month for 10 years in a row. All MCS proclamations receive the full approval of respective U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, prior to being signed by Governors. These MCS proclamations can be viewed at:

http://mcs-america.org/index_files/proclamations.htm

What are the symptoms of MCS?

People with MCS become extremely ill, and experience a wide range of invisible, debilitating hypersensitivity reactions, even life-threatening, upon the slightest chemical exposure via inhalation, skin absorption, and ingestion. Symptoms may include, but are not limited to, severe breathing and neurological problems, muscle and joint pain, trouble thinking, concentrating, short term memory loss, confusion, visual changes, disorientation, dysfunction of the senses, loss or acute sense of smell, sinus congestion, rhinitis, burning eyes and throat, nausea, digestive problems, difficulty swallowing, extreme fatigue, numbness, tingling sensations, convulsions, heart palpitations, irregular heart beat, mood and behavioral changes, headaches of varying severity. MCS people usually have severe food intolerances and hypersensitivities to molds, pollen, algae, insect bites, and medications, which can be life-threatening. Regardless of which form the symptoms of MCS manifest themselves, the key word is severe reactivity to chemicals in the environment.

Is there a cure for Multiple Chemical Sensitivity(MCS)/Toxic Chemical Injury?

NO. Unfortunately, there is no cure at present time. Reducing drastically toxic chemicals in the environment, and trying to avoid what is known to trigger reactions is the best way to control reactions for people with MCS. Further scientific research is urgently needed to fully evaluate all the physiological mechanisms of this devastating worldwide environmentally triggered disease.

References

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

New Mexico Multiple Chemical Sensitivities Task Force -NM Department of Health, Public Health Division - NM Governor's Committee on concerns of the Handicapped- NM Environment Department

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McKeown-Eyssen, et al, Case -control study of genotypes in multiple chemical sensitivity: CYP2D6, NAT1, PON1, PON2 and NTHFR, International Journal of Epidemiology 33 (5):1-8

Websites:

<http://www.nettally.com/prusty/mcs.htm>

<http://www.mcs-america.org>

<http://www.drrapp.com>

<http://www.chem-tox.com>

<http://thebestcontrol.com>

<http://www.herc.org>

About the Author : Christiane Tourtet B.A. is the Founder/President of MCS Homepage, International MCS/EMS Awareness. She is a renowned award-winning writer, author, photo-journalist, MCS/EMS and human rights activist. She graduated from Florida Junior College with an Associate in Science, an Associate in Arts Degrees , both with high honors, and a Bachelor in Arts from Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, Florida. She is a former teacher, college instructor, radio producer/air personality, television commercial actress, voice over talent and artist. Her biography has been included in numerous worldwide publications, notably in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the World. As a role model for society, her biography has been published in the Millennium 54th Edition of Who's Who in America which was chosen to be included in the White House Millennium Capsule.

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What you should know about.....

MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY (MCS)

Also known as TOXIC CHEMICAL INJURY



An increasingly alarming Worldwide Public Health Problem triggered By our Toxic Environment

*This brochure has been written by
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<http://www.nettally.com/prusty/mcs.htm>

[http://www.americanchronicle.com/authors/view/1](http://www.americanchronicle.com/authors/view/1766)

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