



It's not always about the clearance letter.....Why we do what we do.

At SiteMed we know that what we do makes a difference in the lives of firefighters and law enforcement officers. Sometimes it's nice to step back and celebrate lives changed for the better.

Last year, a Georgia police captain participated in a routine SiteMed wellness screening for his department. His lung cancer was detected through our screening process.

In his words:

"Many of you have participated in the first phases of the SiteMed physicals offered by the City. I was one of those who underwent the CT scan a couple of weeks ago. The following day, Dr. Walker with SiteMed called to inform me of a suspicious finding in the scan. He recommended an immediate follow-up with my personal doctor.

Several visits with my doctor and other specialists later, it was learned that the CT scan revealed a life-threatening condition that can now be treated with a very high confidence of cure. My doctors assure me that the condition, if not discovered, would have become critical within a few months, with low chances of long term survivability. Symptoms likely would not have been noticeable until the condition was much further along.

Although the CT scan was the test that discovered my condition, the other tests involved in the City-sponsored physical could be just as beneficial for identifying other conditions. Those eligible for the CT scan have through next week to participate.

I am writing this to strongly encourage those who may not want to participate in the SiteMed testing, to reconsider. You don't know what you don't know."

Just recently, we had a North Carolina firefighter, who because of our physician's interest in his health, sought out medical care that he feels changed his life.

In his words:

Dr. Fernandez, thank you again for saving my life man. Here is my story for you to share.

In the fall of 2013 Bay Leaf FD partnered with SiteMed to conduct our medical clearances. I reluctantly participated. During the evaluation I was not medically cleared to be a FF and was further encouraged to see my regular doctor for further evaluation to seek that clearance.

Around February of 2014 I saw my regular doctor for a routine physical and blood work. I met with the doctor and we had a very positive conversation. All my numbers compared to the SiteMed numbers had improved (my wife had put me on a strict diet) and at the end of the visit he mentioned my PSA was slightly elevated and suggested another test just to verify the number.

The second test turned out the same as the first so I was sent to a urologist. We visited the urologist in late March for a biopsy, and on Good Friday we got the call that the results came back positive for prostate cancer. At this point we

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consulted with a surgeon who advised that because of my age and health we should proceed with a radical prostatectomy to remove the prostate and hopefully cure me of cancer.

On June 11, 2014 surgery was successfully performed and today only because of Dr. Fernandez and the SiteMed medical evaluation am I cancer free. Again doc, thank you for changing my life sir!

God Bless!

We generally don't share these types of stories out of respect for privacy but these individuals expressed their desire that their stories be used to encourage other individuals and departments to perform medical screenings.

Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officers face significantly higher risks of many diseases. Ask us how we can help your department protect your most valuable assets.

Gonzalo Fernandez, M.D. and Lance Walker, D.O.

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