

# HOUSING AND MEDICAL NEEDS OF THE CHRONIC CHEMICALLY INJURED

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Currently, the Chronic Chemically Injured struggle to find any degree of accommodation in our health system, government programs or in society. Their two greatest medical challenges that need to be addressed are the low-toxicity housing needs and the low-toxicity health care needs.

## Challenge # 1 – Meeting The Housing Needs Of The Chronic Chemically Injured

Safe, low-toxicity housing is the number one greatest need for the Chronic Chemically Injured. It is also a crucial medical need. Low-toxicity houses are homes with excellent indoor and outdoor air quality. This means that they are homes in which the indoor air toxins are almost non-existent, in a locality in which the outdoor air toxins are reduced to very low levels.

In a nutshell, low-toxicity housing is as crucial to a Chronic Chemically Injured individual, as insulin is to a severe diabetic or heart surgery is to a heart patient. Having a safe place to call home is needed for the recovery of everyone who is Chronic Chemically Injured and is absolutely crucial for the survival of the severely affected person. Also, being able to live in safe, low-toxicity housing will frequently prevent the Chronic Chemically Injured from needing to be hospitalized.

Since the Chronic Chemically Injured individuals need to lead an isolated life in order to protect their health, there is a strong emotional/social component to this housing need. The vast majority of them find the isolation factor very overwhelming. To conquer this, one idea that gets discussed a lot is the creation of low-toxicity villages, in which all the houses, offices, stores, churches and so on are low-toxicity buildings that are safe for the Chronic Chemically Injured. Then their ability to socialize, shop and be involved in community events is restored. To successfully accomplish this, the villages must be located in an outside low-toxicity environment.

Also, when their health has an opportunity to recover, an opportunity to return to gainful employment is created, especially if they are able to be employed in a low-toxicity village. Finding a safe place to live, to rebuild one's health, to work, and to socialize is what the vast majority of Chronic Chemically Injured individuals need and crave.

## Challenge # 2 – Meeting The Health Care Needs Of The Chronic Chemically Injured

Frequently, all of the solutions that are discussed to accommodate the Chronic Chemically Injured individual in the health system and in society, amount to trying to force a square peg into a round hole and vice versa. These solutions try to make a compromise with other interests. However, the low-toxicity health requirements are often incompatible with other interests and with society's values. The compromise solutions might help the mildly or moderately affected to some degree, but they will not help the severely affected. Although strict adherence to the low-toxicity health requirements may be viewed as very radical by the average person, they are vital for the survival of the severely Chronic Chemically Injured, and they will also greatly benefit the mildly or moderately injured.

A lot of health recovery for the Chronic Chemically Injured can be accomplished through:

- meeting the need of low-toxicity housing

- through access to health care in their own home, in which all the health care providers are unscented and trained in the health care requirements of the Chronic Chemically Injured.

However, there are times when they also need access to hospital care. When this is the case, it becomes even more vital that they are not exposed to scent (on skin, hair or clothes), chemical disinfectants, chemical cleansers and so on. It is crucial that the medical care they receive is low-toxicity medical care. Therefore, trying to accommodate them in a regular hospital is very challenging in the current medical climate.

Consequently, to effectively meet their low-toxicity medical needs in a hospital setting, a specialized hospital is required – a hospital that is built for the Chronic Chemically Injured and that creates all of its policies from the perspective of the low-toxicity medical requirements of the Chronic Chemically Injured. It needs to be a hospital that has the specific focus of clinical toxicology, since the Chronic Chemically Injured person's reactions are in fact toxic reactions, and the doctors to whom they are referred need to be trained clinical toxicologists.

Clinical toxicology is an underdeveloped medical field, and it urgently needs to be expanded to meet the challenges of the Chronic Chemically Injured. Instead of being only in poison control centres with a focus only on single incidence acute poisonings, the clinical toxicologist needs to be more available and needs to be trained to recognize, diagnose and treat the Chronic Chemically Injured, those who have been poisoned gradually by a wide variety of poison mixtures.

Dr. Gunnar Heuser, a neurotoxicologist and an immunotoxicologist, has already developed an effective Diagnostic Protocol for the Chronic Chemically Injured. Here is a link to it:

[http://www.lindane.org/new/2005/chemical\\_injury.htm](http://www.lindane.org/new/2005/chemical_injury.htm)

Then, additionally, there needs to be the development of various specialties within the clinical toxicology medical field, as it relates to the Chronic Chemically Injured, such as: neurotoxicology, immunotoxicology, hepatotoxicology, pediatric toxicology and so on. This would be best accomplished in a Clinical Toxicology Hospital/Research Centre, which draws together the expertise from the global-leading, medical researchers in this field.

Ideally, this Clinical Toxicology Hospital/Research Centre could be built in one of the safe, low-toxicity villages that has been created specifically for the Chronic Chemically Injured. The existence of the low-toxicity villages would create an open door to do control research studies comparing different groups of the Chronic Chemically Injured with each other and with people who are not Chronic Chemically Injured. Here are a few things that this Clinical Toxicology Hospital/Research Centre could accomplish:

1. meet the low-toxicity health care needs of the Chronic Chemically Injured;
2. teach and train the health care professionals about Chronic Chemically Injury;
3. inform the medical community, governments and society about Chronic Chemically Injury in a way that they will accept, respect and follow; and
4. grant the opportunity for controlled, double blind research studies.