



PACT ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



..... VIETNAM



..... GULF WAR



..... POST-9/11



The **PACT Act** is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The Act **(1)** expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and **(2)** expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

VETERANS AND SURVIVORS CAN FILE CLAIMS FOR ALL CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN THE PACT ACT IMMEDIATELY.

For Gulf War and post 9-11 Veterans, that includes:

Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma (diagnosed after service), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis,

Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), High blood pressure (hypertension).

How can Veterans apply for VA health care?

Apply **online** at [VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction).

Call our toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387, M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET.

Mail a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ).

Bring a completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ with you to your nearest medical center or clinic or get help through your state's Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officer.

Get help filing your claim by working with an accredited representative.

What are the PACT Act key components?



The Act **expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures** and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.



VA **will improve the decision-making process** for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.



Every enrolled Veteran will **receive an initial toxic exposure screening** and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



VA health care staff and claims processors will receive **toxic exposure-related education and training**.



The Act requires **research studies** on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.



The Act will help VA **build a stronger, more skilled workforce** to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.



The Act authorizes **31 new medical facilities** across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.

How can a Veteran file a claim?



Veterans who would like to file a claim must complete **VA Form 21-526EZ** to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.



To learn about standard VA disability claims, supplemental claims, secondary claims, and more visit: [VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file](https://va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file).

If a Veteran was previously denied a claim, what can they do?

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, **Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim** are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)
Download the **VA Health and Benefits App**
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)





PACT ACT VA HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

The **PACT Act** is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The law **expands health care eligibility to several groups of Veterans** who may not have been eligible before and requires VA to phase in hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for any illness to three new categories of Veterans:

Category 1: Veterans who participated in a toxic exposure risk activity (as defined by law) while serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training.



Category 2: Veterans assigned to a duty station (including airspace above) on or after:



August 2, 1990, in Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or United Arab Emirates

September 11, 2001, in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, or Yemen, or any other country determined relevant by VA

Category 3: Veterans who deployed in support of:



Operation Enduring Freedom Operation Freedom's Sentinel
Operation Iraqi Freedom Operation New Dawn
Operation Inherent Resolve Resolute Support Mission

Between October 1, 2022, and October 1, 2023, **Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities** after November 11, 1998, and who were discharged or released between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, may receive care and apply for enrollment for VA health care.

Veterans who served in certain countries during specific time periods:

Republic of Vietnam

January 9, 1962 - May 7, 1975

Thailand

Any U.S. or Royal Thai base

January 9, 1962 - June 30, 1976

Guam or American Samoa

(or in their territorial waters)

January 9, 1962 - July 31, 1980

Laos

December 1, 1965 - September 30, 1969

Cambodian

at Mimot or Krek,

Kampong Cham Province

April 16, 1969 - April 30, 1969

Johnston Atoll

(or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll)

January 1, 1972 - September 30, 1977

Toxic Exposure Screening



Every enrolled Veteran will receive an **initial toxic exposure screening** and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans not enrolled but who are eligible will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



KEY ELIGIBILITY DATES

AUGUST 10, 2022:

PACT Act signed into law.

OCTOBER 1, 2022:

Presumptions of service connection take effect for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, certain provinces in Cambodia, Guam, or American Samoa (or their territorial waters), or the Johnston Atoll (or a ship that called there) during specific time periods. Applies for health care eligibility.

NOTE: This will go into effect immediately for eligible Veterans who are terminally ill, homeless, under extreme financial hardship, are over 85 years old, or otherwise can demonstrate sufficient cause.

OCTOBER 1, 2022 - OCTOBER 1, 2023:

Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and who were discharged or released between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, may receive care and apply for enrollment for VA health care.

NOVEMBER 8, 2022:

Begin incorporating toxic exposure screening for enrolled Veterans.

OCTOBER 1, 2024:

Phase in enrollment for Categories 1 and 2 for Veterans discharged or released August 2, 1990 - September 11, 2001.

OCTOBER 1, 2026:

Phase in enrollment for Categories 1 and 2 for Veterans discharged or released September 12, 2001 - December 31, 2006.

OCTOBER 1, 2028:

Phase in enrollment for Categories 1 and 2 for Veterans discharged or released January 1, 2007 - December 31, 2012.

OCTOBER 1, 2030:

Phase in enrollment for Categories 1 and 2 for Veterans discharged or released January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2018.

OCTOBER 1, 2032:

Phase in enrollment for Category 3 Veterans.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at VA.gov/PACT
Download the VA Health and Benefits App
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at VA.gov/find-locations/





2022 PACT ACT: UNDERSTANDING HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS



2022 PACT ACT: UNDERSTANDING HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS



PACT ACT OVERVIEW

What does toxic exposure mean?

As a general matter, there are several types of possible exposures or hazards Veterans may have experienced during their military service, including:

- » **AIR POLLUTANTS:** Burn pits, oil well fires, sulfur fire, sand, dust, and particulates.
- » **CHEMICALS:** Agent Orange or other herbicides, burn pits, Camp Lejeune water supplies, pesticides, depleted uranium, chromium, or industrial solvents.
- » **RADIATION:** Nuclear weapons testing, x-rays, or depleted uranium.
- » **WARFARE AGENTS:** Chemical warfare agents, nerve agents, mustard gas, herbicide tests, and storage.
- » **OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS:** Asbestos, lead, fuels, industrial solvents, radiation, vibration, noise, special paint on military vehicles, and some coolants or insulating fluids.



HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

What are the new health care eligibility criteria?

The PACT Act helps advance a top VA priority: getting more Veterans into VA care by expanding eligibility for, and the availability of, health care services for Veterans. The law expands health care eligibility to several groups of Veterans who may not have been eligible before and requires VA to phase in hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for any illness to three new categories of Veterans.

» **CATEGORY 1:** Veterans who participated in a toxic exposure risk activity (as defined by law) while serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training.

» **CATEGORY 2:** Veterans who were assigned to a duty station in (including airspace above) certain locations during specific periods of time:

- On or after August 2, 1990, in Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or the United Arab Emirates.
- On or after September 11, 2001, in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, or any other country determined relevant by VA.

» **CATEGORY 3:** Veterans who deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Operation Inherent Resolve, or Resolute Support Mission.

» ON OCTOBER 1, 2022:

Presumptions of service connection take effect for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam (from 1/9/62–5/7/75), Thailand at any US or Royal Thai base (from 1/9/62–6/30/76), Laos (from 12/1/65–9/30/69), certain provinces in Cambodia (from 4/16/69–4/30/69), Guam, or American Samoa or their territorial waters (from 1/9/62–7/31/80), or the Johnston Atoll or a ship that called there (from 1/1/72–9/30/77). This applies for health care eligibility and will go into effect immediately for eligible Veterans who are terminally ill, homeless, under extreme financial hardship, are over 85 years old, or otherwise can demonstrate sufficient cause.

» BETWEEN OCTOBER 1, 2022, AND OCTOBER 1, 2023:

Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and who were discharged between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, may receive care and apply for enrollment for VA health care. Enrollment is free; there are no annual costs, and care may be free as well.



HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

What is a toxic exposure screening?

How will it help Veterans?

Veterans will be asked questions about potential exposure to an open burn pit or other hazards and symptoms commonly associated with military environmental exposure. These questions will help VA health care providers individualize health care services to improve health outcomes and patient experience. This will also help VA identify other potential risks for Veterans and inform future policy decisions.

How will a Gulf War or Post-9/11 Combat Veterans' eligibility be impacted?

The PACT Act extends and expands VA health care eligibility. All Veterans are encouraged to apply for VA healthcare, regardless of separation date. VA health care eligibility depends on service history and other factors.

Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and who were discharged or released:

» Between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, will have a special enrollment period between October 1, 2022, and October 1, 2023 (if not previously enrolled in VA health care). During this one-year period, Veterans will have another opportunity to receive care and apply for enrollment. We strongly encourage them to do so to ensure health care is available now or in the future. Enrollment is free; there are no annual costs, and care may be free as well.

» After October 1, 2013, are eligible for free VA health care for any condition related to service, and to enroll in VA health care, for up to 10 years from the most recent discharge or separation date.

What is the Burn Pit Registry? How can a Veteran register?

The VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry aims to help VA better understand potential health effects of exposures and proactively identify health concerns Veterans can discuss with their health care providers for follow-up care.

Veterans deployed to Southwest Asia or Egypt after August 2, 1990, or Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, or Uzbekistan on or after September 11, 2001, are eligible to participate in the registry.

Participation is voluntary and cannot negatively impact VA health care access or compensation and benefits claims. Exposure to specific airborne hazards or having related health concerns is not required to participate in the registry.



BENEFITS

What is a presumption of service connection?

VA assumes certain diseases or illnesses can be related to a Veterans' military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits and health care services for these conditions.

What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

Veterans and survivors can file claims for all conditions outlined in the PACT Act immediately.

For Gulf War and post-9-11 Veterans, that includes:

Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma that was diagnosed after service, Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchitis, or obstructive bronchitis, Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), High blood pressure (also called hypertension).

Can Veterans apply now?

VA is considering the presumptive conditions established in the PACT Act to be applicable on the date the bill becomes law. We encourage all Veterans who believe they may be entitled to benefits to apply now.

What evidence must Veterans submit when filing a claim?

Veterans should submit any supportive evidence along with their claims. The PACT Act states that in processing claims for compensation related to toxic exposure, VA may consider any Veteran record in an exposure tracking record system. If no record exists, VA may consider the totality of circumstances. Claims processors can also assist Veterans filing a claim by gathering any identified medical evidence and requesting an examination or medical opinion to substantiate the claim.

Veterans now eligible for benefits based on a presumption of service connection are encouraged to file a claim using [VA Form 21-526EZ](#). Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits, or a supplemental claim using [VA Form 20-0995](#). Decision Review Request; Supplemental Claim.



Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022

An Overview of Key Elements

August | 2022



Bottom Line Up Front

What is Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022?

The PACT Act requires VA to improve health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances by expanding eligibility and available health care services.

What are the immediate impacts to our Nation's Veterans?

The PACT Act expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for toxic-exposed Veterans and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.

How is VA managing the sections of the PACT Act?

The PACT Act has 53 substantive sections spread across VA and other agencies. Department level integration is being led by the VA Office of Enterprise Integration. VBA and VHA are working collaboratively to address all sections and identify areas with cross administration impacts.



Key Messages

- The PACT Act is one of the largest expansions of Veteran benefits and health care in VA's history and could impact generations of Veterans and their survivors.
- VA recognizes the complexity and broad demographic cross-section of Veterans the PACT Act will affect and will ensure that a "Veteran-centric" approach to the timely and efficient delivery of health care and benefits is available.
- VA is developing a multifaceted outreach plan to provide affected Veterans and their family members with information about the new law, and potential entitlement to care and benefits.
- Every attempt will be made to reach Veterans who may have been exposed to toxins while serving and to outline their claim options.



Top Line Messages

- The PACT Act will ensure generations of Veterans—and their survivors—can receive the benefits and care they've earned and deserve.
- VA will seek to implement PACT Act provisions as soon as possible, and work to ensure the expansion of eligibility does not result in the delay or disruption of care for those Veterans already receiving VA health care. VA will conduct outreach to affected Veterans and their family members with information about the new law and potential entitlements.
- We urge all Veterans to continue to file claims so we can provide the benefits and care they have earned and deserve.
To learn more visit: <http://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file>.
- Veterans not yet enrolled in VA health care, and who believe they may now be eligible, should apply at <https://choose.va.gov/healthn>.

Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022

Public Law 117-XXX



TITLE I: EXPANSION OF HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

(Sections 101-111)

Short Title: Covenant Act of 2022

- Expands eligibility to specific categories of Toxic-Exposed Veterans
- Expands eligibility to Veterans supporting certain overseas contingency operations
- Expands eligibility period for certain eras
- Creates a one-year open enrollment period for certain Post 9/11 combat Veterans who did not enroll in VA health care previously to enroll or receive care



TITLE II: TOXIC EXPOSURE PRESUMPTION PROCESS

(Sections 201-204)

Short Title: TEAM Act of 2022

- Improves the decision-making process for presumptions of service connection based on toxic exposure



TITLE III: IMPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE CONNECTION PROCESS FOR TOXIC-EXPOSED VETERANS

(Sections 301-303)

Short Title: Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act of 2022

- Any entry in an exposure tracking record system is a qualifying toxic exposure risk activity
- Any entry in an exposure tracking record system is a presumption of exposure for a claim for service connection



TITLE IV: PRESUMPTIONS OF SERVICE CONNECTION

(Sections 401-407)

- Expands Agent Orange exposure and adds hypertension & monoclonal gammopathy to the list of presumptions
- Establishes a presumption of service connection for 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers related to burn pits and airborne hazards exposure
- Improves compensation for Persian Gulf War Veterans with disabilities



TITLE IX: IMPROVEMENT OF WORKFORCE OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

(Sections 901-909)

- Improves national rural recruitment and hiring planning for VHA
- Improves the ability of VA to hire and retain staff, including health care providers



TITLE VIII: RECORDS AND OTHER MATTERS

(Sections 801-808)

Short Title: Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 (s.804)

- Creates a fund to cover health care and benefits expenses associated with exposure to environmental hazards in service



TITLE VII: RESOURCING

(Sections 701-707)

- Appropriations to enhance claims processing capacity and automation
- Authorizes 31 major medical facility leases across 19 states



TITLE VI: IMPROVEMENT OF RESOURCES AND TRAINING REGARDING TOXIC-EXPOSED VETERANS

(Sections 601-604)

Short Title: Fairly Assessing Service-Related Toxic Exposure Residuals Presumptions Act of 2022

- Requires VA to create a list of resources and outreach program for toxic-exposed Veterans
- Incorporates a clinical toxic exposure screening for VHA enrollees
- Requires additional training for health care personnel and claims processors



TITLE V: RESEARCH MATTERS

(Sections 501-510)

- Improves compensation for Persian Gulf War Veterans with disabilities
- Includes studies on mortality of Veterans who served in certain locations during certain periods, post-9/11 Veterans' health trends, Veterans' cancer rates, and the effects of toxic exposures and mental health outcomes
- Includes studies on the effects of waste related to the Manhattan Project, Veterans in Territories of the United States, and the health effects of jet fuels
- Establishes interagency working groups on toxic exposure research





BE VIGILANT OF PACT ACT SCAMS



On August 10, President Biden signed the PACT Act into law. This law helps millions of Veterans and their survivors by:

- Extending **VA health care** eligibility for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 (Post-September 11, 2001) eras
- Expanding **benefits** eligibility for Veterans exposed to toxic substances and their survivors

How to Apply for PACT Act Benefits

We want Veterans and survivors to apply now for their PACT Act-related benefits. You can learn more and sign up at www.va.gov/PACT, or call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411).

If you need help applying for benefits, [VA, accredited representatives, and Veteran Service Officers](#) are always standing by and ready to help. There's no cost for the forms, no fees to apply, and VA will never charge Veterans for processing a claim.



Tips to Avoid PACT Act Scams

Scammers are taking advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud. There's been an increase in PACT Act-related [phishing \(email\)](#), vishing (phone), and [social media scams](#) targeting Veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or submit claims on their behalf.

Veterans should be cautious of anyone who guarantees a lucrative financial benefit or service. To report suspected fraudulent activity, please contact at vaoghline@va.gov or call 1-800-488-8244.



Protect yourself against new scams with these tips:

- Do not provide personal, benefits, medical, or financial details online or over the phone. Federal agencies will not contact you unless you make a request.
- Do not click on online ads or engage with social media that seem suspicious.
- Check for "https://" at the start of website addresses.
- Enable multi-factor authentication on all accounts.
- Work with Veteran service providers you already know.
- Submit any suspected fraud to [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud).

Visit the [Cybercrime Support Network](#) for additional [resources](#) to help Veterans, service members, and their families combat cybercrime.

www.VA.gov/PACT is the official source of PACT Act information.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov](https://www.VA.gov)
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://www.VA.gov/find-locations/)



2022 PACT ACT: UNDERSTANDING HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS



2022 PACT ACT: UNDERSTANDING HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS



BENEFITS

If a Veteran was previously denied a claim for any of these conditions, what can they do?

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.

What actions should Veterans take who have never filed a claim for one of these conditions?

Veterans who are diagnosed with one of the new presumptive conditions and meet eligibility requirements should submit a new claim for consideration using VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits.

Will family members or dependents—those who lost a loved one during the re-adjudication process or those who lost a loved one who was previously denied a claim—receive any benefits because of the PACT Act?

Family members or dependents of a deceased Veteran may qualify for various VA benefits due to the additional disabilities defined in the PACT Act if they meet eligibility requirements. Benefits available include Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), Accrued, and Burial benefits.

» **DIC** is a monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children, or parent(s) of a deceased Veteran who died in the line of duty or from a service-connected disability or disabilities. Evidence must show the Veteran's death was caused by or related to the Veteran's time in service.

» **Accrued benefits** are one-time payments to an eligible surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on the relationship when the evidence of record shows benefits, such as disability compensation or Veterans pension, were due but unpaid prior to the Veteran's passing. A family member of the deceased Veteran may also qualify for providing evidence of payment for the Veteran's final expenses or burial.

» **Burial benefits** are a flat-rate payment to assist in covering eligible Veteran burial in a national cemetery and funeral costs. VA may provide burial benefits to a family member or dependent of a deceased Veteran who met the qualifications at the time of their passing. VA pays service-connected burial, non-service-connected burial, plot or interment allowance, and transportation reimbursement.

» **Health care through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)** may also be available for survivors and dependents of Veterans who are now, or who would have been, eligible for a service-connected disability.

How can a Veteran apply for VA health care?

» **Apply online at** va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction

» **Call the toll-free hotline** at 877-222-8387 Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET

» **Mail** a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits VA Form 10-10EZ.

» **Bring** a completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ to the nearest VA Medical Center or clinic.

How can a Veteran file a disability claim?

Veterans who wish to file a claim must complete VA Form 21-526EZ to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.

Veterans can learn about standard VA disability, supplemental, and secondary claims by visiting: va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file

Note: VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. Most claims previously denied will not automatically be reviewed under the PACT Act, and Veterans who were previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new policies.

Learn more and sign up at va.gov
Download the VA Health and Benefits App
Call us at 1-800-4MYVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at va.gov/find-a-location/



PACT ACT OVERVIEW

What is the PACT Act? Why is it important?

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The Act (1) expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and (2) expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

What does the acronym, PACT, stand for?

Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022.

When does the law go into effect?

While some provisions take effect at different times, VA considers the presumptive conditions established in the PACT Act to be applicable on the date the PACT is signed into law. All Veterans and survivors who believe they may be entitled to benefits are encouraged to apply today.

What are the PACT act key components?

» The Act expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.

» VA will improve the decision-making process for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.

» Every enrolled Veteran will receive an initial toxic exposure screening and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.

» VA health care staff and claims processors will receive toxic exposure-related education and training.

» The Act requires research studies on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.

» The Act will help VA build a stronger, more skilled workforce to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.

» The Act authorizes 31 new medical facilities across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.



PACT ACT KEY DATES

AUGUST 10, 2022:
PACT Act signed into law.

EFFECTIVE ON ENACTMENT:
Adds 20+ new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures and more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation.

OCTOBER 1, 2022:

Presumptions of service connection take effect for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, certain provinces in Cambodia, Guam, or American Samoa (for their territorial waters), or the Johnston Atoll (for a ship that called there) during specific time periods. Applies for health care eligibility.

Note: This will go into effect immediately for eligible Veterans who are terminally ill, homeless, under extreme financial hardship, are over 85 years old, or otherwise can demonstrate sufficient cause.

OCTOBER 1, 2022 – OCTOBER 1, 2023:

1-year period for care and enrollment for Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after 11/11/98, and who were discharged or released between 9/11/01–10/1/13.

NOVEMBER 8, 2022:

Begin incorporating toxic exposure screening for enrolled Veterans.

OCTOBER 1, 2024:

Phase in enrollment for health care for Veterans identified in Categories 1 and 2 who were discharged or released August 2, 1990 – September 11, 2001.

OCTOBER 1, 2026:

Phase in enrollment for health care for Veterans identified in Categories 1 and 2 who were discharged or released September 12, 2001 – December 31, 2006.

OCTOBER 1, 2028:

Phase in enrollment for health care for Veterans identified in Categories 1 and 2 who were discharged or released January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2012.

OCTOBER 1, 2030:

Phase in enrollment for health care for Veterans identified in Categories 1 and 2 who were discharged or released January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2018.

OCTOBER 1, 2032:

Phase in enrollment for health care for Veterans identified in Category 3.

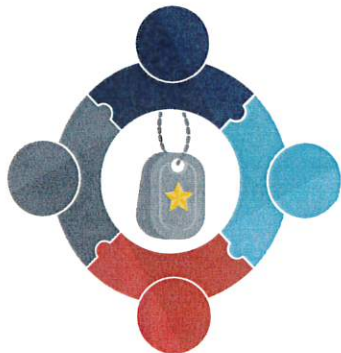


U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.



The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on va.gov/family-member-benefits.



Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.



Accrued Benefits

A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.



Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.



Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.



Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)