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VA extends presumptions of service connection for three new cancer types

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2024 9:00 am

WASHINGTON — Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is including three new cancer types in the list of presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposure under the [PACT Act](#). This announcement marks the continued commitment under the

[Biden-Harris administration's Unity Agenda](#) and the [Biden Cancer Moonshot](#) to support the nation's Veterans.

Through a sub-regulatory policy letter published to the [Federal Register](#), the following three cancer types have been included in the list of presumptive diseases:

- Male breast cancer.
- Urethral cancer.
- Cancer of the paraurethral glands.

This policy establishes presumptions of service connection for eligible Gulf War and post-9/11 Veterans who deployed to Afghanistan, Somalia, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, and the entire [Southwest Asia theater of operations](#), which includes Iraq. Presumptive service connection means VA automatically assumes service connection for the disease and provides benefits to eligible Veterans who have submitted claims with evidence of a diagnosis.

“We are working with urgency to deliver on the promise of the PACT Act to provide health care and benefits to as many toxic-exposed Veterans as possible — we’re leaning in wherever we can,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “VA is working with one goal in mind: getting today and tomorrow’s Veterans and their families the benefits they deserve as fast as possible.”

Any Veteran who currently has or previously had one of the listed cancers at any time during military service or after separation may be entitled to disability compensation benefits dated back to Aug. 10, 2022, the date the [PACT Act was signed into law](#). VA will review all claims from impacted Veterans and survivors who previously filed and were denied for these three conditions on or after Aug. 10, 2022, to determine if benefits can now be granted. Veterans enrolled

in VA health care can obtain cancer screening and treatment at VA, which recently announced [expansion of cancer care services](#) closer to where Veterans are.

VA has granted its [1 millionth PACT Act-related disability compensation claim](#) and awarded over \$5.7 billion to Veterans and survivors since President Biden signed the bill into law.

Veterans and survivors can apply or learn more about the PACT Act by visiting [VA.gov/PACT](#) or by calling 1-800-MYVA411.

There is no charge to file a claim with VA. For further assistance with the disability claims process, Veterans are encouraged to work with a [VA-accredited representative](#) or contact their [state Veterans affairs office](#).

For more information about VA cancer care, visit [cancer.va.gov](#).

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Reporters and media outlets with questions or comments should contact the Office of Media Relations at vapublicaffairs@va.gov



Veterans with questions about their health care and benefits (including GI Bill).

Questions, updates and documents can be submitted online.

[Contact us online through Ask VA](#)

Veterans can also use our chatbot to get information about VA benefits and services. The chatbot won't connect you with a person, but it can show you where to go on VA.gov to find answers to some common questions.



[Learn about our chatbot and ask a question](#)

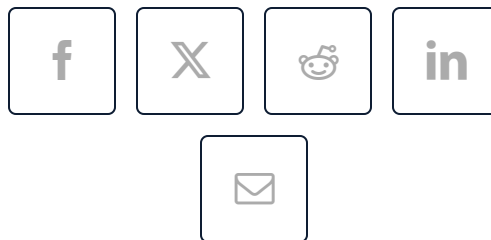


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NEWS RELEASES

JUNE 13, 2024

VA awards second option period to Oracle Health in support of Federal Electronic Health Record modernization contract

Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced the award of the second option period for its contract with Oracle Health in support of VA's Federal Electronic Health Record Modernization, with an emphasis on improved fiscal and

NEWS RELEASES

JUNE 12, 2024

More than 50,000 women Veterans enrolled in VA health care over past 365 days, marking the largest enrollment year ever for women Veterans

Today, on Women Veterans Recognition Day, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that more than 53,000 women Veterans enrolled in VA health care between May 2023 and May 2024, marking a 20%

NEWS RELEASES

JUNE 11, 2024

VA announces updates to help Veterans using VA home loan benefits remain competitive in the housing market

Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that eligible Veterans, active-duty Service members, and surviving spouses who use the VA-guaranteed home loan benefit can pay for certain real estate buyer-broker fees

performance
accountability.

increase over the
previous year and
the largest
enrollment year for
women Veterans on
record.

when purchasing a
home.

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