



The PACT Act

What is the PACT Act?

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

How will the PACT Act affect my VA benefits and care?

The PACT Act:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

What does it mean to have a presumptive condition for toxic exposure?

To get a VA disability rating, your disability must connect to your military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition. However, for some conditions, it is automatically assumed (or “presumed”) that your service caused your condition. These are called “presumptive conditions.” A condition is considered presumptive when it is established by law or regulation. If you have a presumptive condition, you do not need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

Gulf War era and post-9/11 Veteran eligibility:

More than 20 burn pit and other toxic exposure presumptive conditions have been added based on the PACT Act. This change expands benefits for Gulf War era and post-9/11 Veterans.

- Learn more about presumptive cancers related to burn pits [here](#).
- Learn about other hazardous materials presumptive conditions that may make you eligible for care or benefits [here](#).

Vietnam era Veteran eligibility:

Based on the PACT Act, 2 new Agent Orange presumptive conditions have been added:

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



You may also be eligible for disability compensation based on other Agent Orange presumptive conditions. These conditions include certain cancers, type 2 diabetes, and other illnesses.

- Get a list of other Agent Orange presumptive conditions [here](#).

How do I file a disability claim for a new presumptive condition?

If you haven't filed a claim yet for the presumptive condition, you can file a new claim [online](#) now. You can also file by mail, in person, or with the help of a trained professional.

- Learn more about how to file a disability compensation claim [here](#).

If your disability claim was denied in the past and your condition is now considered presumptive, you can submit a Supplemental Claim to have your case reviewed again.

- Find out how to file a Supplemental Claim [here](#).

Can I get a toxic exposure screening at the VA?

Toxic exposure screenings are available at VA health facilities across the country. Every Veteran enrolled in VA health care will receive an initial screening and a follow-up screening at least once every 5 years. Veterans who are not enrolled and who meet eligibility requirements will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.

Ask about the screening at your next VA health care appointment. If you do not have an upcoming appointment, or if you want to get the screening sooner, contact your [local VA health facility](#). Ask to get screened by the toxic exposure screening navigator.

Can Veteran survivors get compensation under the PACT Act?

Yes. If you are a surviving family member of a Veteran, you may be eligible for these benefits:

- A monthly VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (VA DIC) payment. You may qualify if you are the surviving spouse, dependent child, or parent of a Veteran who died from a service-connected disability. [Learn how to apply for VA DIC](#)
- A one-time accrued benefits payment. You may qualify if you are the surviving spouse, dependent child, or dependent parent of a Veteran who was owed unpaid benefits at the time of their death. [Learn about evidence needed for accrued benefits](#)
- A Survivors Pension. You may qualify if you are the surviving spouse or child of a Veteran with wartime service. [Learn how to apply for a Survivors Pension](#)