

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



PUBLIC HEALTH

Veterans' Diseases Associated with Agent Orange

VA assumes that certain diseases can be related to a Veteran's qualifying military service. We call these "presumptive diseases."

VA has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for disability compensation or survivors' benefits for these diseases.

- **AL Amyloidosis**  
A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs
- **Chronic B-cell Leukemias**  
A type of cancer which affects white blood cells
- **Chloracne (or similar acneform disease)**  
A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.
- **Diabetes Mellitus Type 2**  
A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin
- **Hodgkin's Disease**  
A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia
- **Ischemic Heart Disease**  
A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain
- **Multiple Myeloma**  
A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow
- **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma**  
A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue
- **Parkinson's Disease**  
A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement
- **Peripheral Neuropathy, Acute and Subacute**  
A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Currently, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of herbicide exposure and resolve within two years. VA proposed on Aug. 10, 2012, to replace "acute and subacute" with "early-onset" and eliminate the requirement that symptoms resolve within two years.
- **Porphyria Cutanea Tarda**  
A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.
- **Prostate Cancer**  
Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men
- **Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer)**  
Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus
- **Soft Tissue Sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)**  
A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues

**Children with Birth Defects:** VA presumes certain birth defects in children of Vietnam and Korea Veterans associated with Veterans' qualifying military service.

**Veterans with Lou Gehrig's Disease:** VA presumes Lou Gehrig's Disease (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS) diagnosed in all Veterans who had 90 days or more continuous active military service is related to their service, although ALS is not related to Agent Orange exposure.

Live healthy

There are steps Veterans can take to help prevent heart disease, cancer, and other common diseases of aging. Get the recommended health screenings, eat a healthy diet, exercise regularly, and don't smoke. Go to [www.prevention.va.gov](http://www.prevention.va.gov) to learn more about healthy living.



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