

Diseases Associated with Herbicide/Agent Orange Exposure – FEB 2023

Veterans may be eligible for Disability Compensation and health care benefits for diseases that VA has recognized as associated with exposure to Herbicides/Agent Orange. Surviving Spouses dependents of Veterans who died as a result of the diseases associated with Herbicides/Agent Orange may be eligible for survivors' benefits.

- **Acute and Sub-acute Peripheral Neuropathy**: A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides and resolve within 2 years after the date it began.
- **AL Amyloidosis**: A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs.
- **Bladder Cancer**: Bladder cancer is a common type of cancer that begins in the cells of the bladder. (2021 NDAA)
- **Chloracne (or Similar Acne form Disease consistent with Chloracne)**
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, chloracne (or other acne form disease similar to chloracne) must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides.
- **Chronic B-cell Leukemia**
A type of cancer which affects white blood cells. VA's regulation recognizing all chronic B-cell Leukemia as related to exposure to herbicides took effect on October 30, 2010.
- **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.
- **Hypothyroidism**: Hypothyroidism is an underactive thyroid gland and it does not make enough thyroid hormone. (2021 NDAA)
- **Ischemic Heart Disease**: A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, which leads to chest pain. VA's regulation recognizing ischemic heart disease as related to exposure to herbicides took effect on October 30, 2010.
- **Multiple Myeloma**: A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow.
- **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma** (also Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia & Small Cell Lymphocytic Lymphoma as of May 2011). A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue.
- **Parkinsonism**: Parkinsonism is any condition that causes a combination of the movement abnormalities seen in Parkinson's disease — such as tremor, slow movement, impaired speech or muscle stiffness — especially resulting from the loss of dopamine-containing nerve cells (neurons). (2021 NDAA)
- **Parkinson's Disease**: A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement. VA's regulation recognizing Parkinson's disease as related to exposure to herbicides took effect on October 30, 2010.
- **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% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides.
- **Prostate Cancer**: Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men.
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- .he lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus.
- **Soft Tissue Sarcoma (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.
- **High Blood Pressure (also called hypertension) – added Aug 2022**. Need medical records documenting Hypertension before medication was required to receive a rating of higher than 0%.
- **Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) – added Aug 2022**

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Herbicide/Agent Orange: Exposure during Military Service

- **Exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam:** Exposure on land in Vietnam or on a ship operating on the inland waterways (Brown Water) of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975. At least one day or more.
- **Korean Demilitarized Zone;** Exposure along the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in Korea between September 1, 1967 and August 31, 1971 (as of 6/25/2019)
- **Herbicide Tests and Storage Outside Vietnam:** Possible exposure due to herbicide tests and storage at military bases in the United States and locations in other countries
- **C-123 Aircraft:** Air Force Veterans (active & reserve) who had repeated contact (through flight, ground or medical duties) with contaminated C-123 aircraft used in Vietnam as part of Operation Ranch Hand (ORH) during the period of 1969 to 1986. See additional handout for requirement of duty stations and Air Force Specialty codes to qualify.
- **Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 (effective 6/25/2019):** A Veteran who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning: January 9, 1962 - May 7, 1965, shall be presumed to have been exposed to an herbicide agent. Service must show that the ship was no more than 12 nautical miles of the coast of Vietnam.

Added Locations: Honoring our PACT Act Aug 2022 (Includes service in Territorial Waters-12 nautical miles off the coast)

- **Thailand Military Bases:** Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962 - June 30, 1976
- **Laos:** from December 1, 1965, through September 30, 1969
- **Cambodia:** at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, through April 30, 1969
- **Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off the coast of Guam or American Samoa:** from January 9, 1962 - July 30, 1980
- **Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll:** from **January 1, 1972 - September 30, 1977**

AGENT ORANGE REGISTRY:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/benefits/registry-exam.asp>

Exams will be completed by your VA Primary Care Physician.

NEHMER V. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: BACK TO 25 SEP 1985 (not for PACT Act)

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6 Nov 2020: U.S. District Court for the Northern District of CA ruled that the Nehmer decision also applies to Blue Water Navy Veterans, as it has applied to On-Ground and Brown Water Vietnam Veterans. If a VA disability claim for presumption was denied service connection back to 25 Sep 1985, the VA must reevaluate the claim. Veteran should gather previously denied VA claims.