

The following health conditions are presumptively recognized for service connection. Vietnam veterans with any of these conditions do not have to show that the illness is related to their military service to get disability compensation. A current medical diagnosis of the condition and a DD Form 214 showing Vietnam Service is normally all that is needed to accompany a completed Veterans Application For Compensation or Pension VA Form Number 21-526.

1. Chloracne (must occur within 1 year of exposure to Agent Orange). Chloracne is a skin condition that looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. The first sign may be excessive oiliness of the skin. This is accompanied or followed by numerous blackheads. In mild cases, the blackheads may be limited to the areas around the eyes extending to the temples. In more severe cases, blackheads may appear in many places, especially over the cheekbone and other facial areas, behind the ears, and along the arms.

2. Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. A group of malignant tumors (cancers) that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue. These tumors are relatively rare compared to other types of cancer, and although survival rates have improved during the past two decades, these diseases tend to be fatal.

3. Hodgkin's disease. A malignant lymphoma characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia.

4. Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma

5. Soft tissue sarcoma other than osteosarcoma and chondrosarcoma. A group of different types of malignant tumors (cancers) that arise from body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues (not in hard tissue such as bone or cartilage). These cancers are in the soft tissue that occurs within and between organs. The following conditions fall under the term "soft-tissue sarcoma):

Adult fibrosarcoma

Malignant fibrous histiocytoma

Malignant hemangiopericytoma

Extraskeletal Ewing's sarcoma

Congenital and infantile fibrosarcoma

Epithelioid Leiomyosarcoma (malignant leiomyoblastoma)

Angiosarcoma (hemangiosarcoma and lymphangiosarcoma)

Proliferating (systemic) angioendotheliomatosis

Clear cell sarcoma of tendons and aponeuroses

Synovial sarcoma (malignant synovioma);

Malignant giant cell tumor of tendon sheath

Alveolar soft part sarcoma

Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans

Malignant granular cell tumor

Malignant mesenchymoma

Ectomesenchymoma

Malignant ganglioneuroma

Epithelioid sarcoma

Liposarcoma

Malignant glomus tumor

Malignant Schwannoma

Leiomyosarcoma

Rhabdomyosarcoma

6. Porphyria cutanea tarda (must occur within 1 year of exposure.) Porphyria cutanea tarda is a disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas.

7. Multiple myeloma. A cancer of specific bone marrow cells that is characterized by bone marrow tumors in various bones of the body.

8. Respiratory cancers, including cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus. (Previously these conditions must have manifested within 30 years of the veteran's departure from Vietnam to qualify but this 30 year time limit has now been eliminated.

9. Prostate cancer. A cancer of the prostate and one of the most common cancers among men.

10. Peripheral neuropathy (transient acute or subacute. It must appear within 1 year of exposure and resolve within 2-years of date of onset.) A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and muscle weakness. This condition affects only the peripheral nervous system, that is, only the nervous system outside the brain and spinal cord. Only the transient acute (short-term) and subacute forms of this condition (not the chronic persistent form) have been associated with herbicide exposure.

11. Diabetes mellitus: Often referred to as Type 2 diabetes: A condition characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin.

12. Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (Final rule and regulations pending). A disease that progresses slowly with increasing production of and older) who live in areas where it's offered.

VA health care providers occasionally see combat veterans with multiple unexplained symptoms or difficult-to-diagnose illnesses that can cause significant disability. Two VA centers offer specialized evaluations for combat veterans with disabilities related to these difficult-to-diagnose illnesses. The War Related Illness and Injury Study Centers - WRIISCs (pronounced "risks") are at the VA Medical Centers in Washington, DC, and East Orange, NJ. Veterans who were deployed to combat zones, served in areas where hostilities occurred, or were exposed to environmental hazards while on duty may be eligible for services. [Source: NAUS Weekly Update for 22 AUG 03 & POVA VSO msg 28 JUL 04]