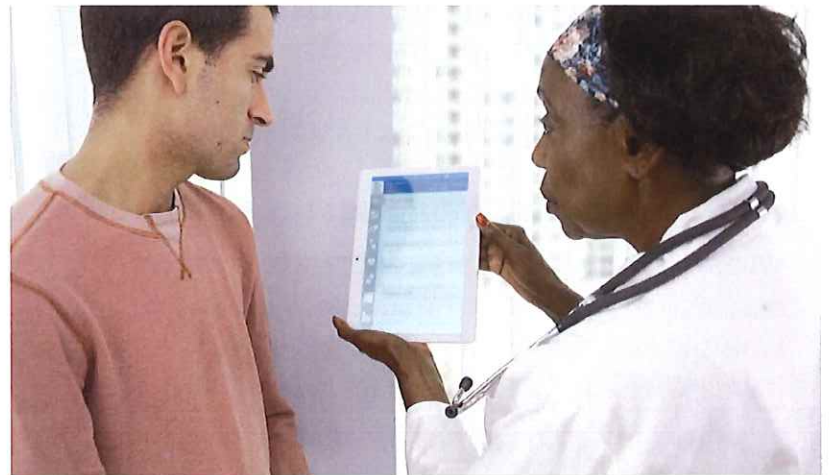


PACT ACT

Gulf War Veterans' Medically Unexplained Illnesses

A prominent condition affecting Gulf War Veterans is a cluster of medically unexplained chronic symptoms that can include fatigue, headaches, joint pain, indigestion, insomnia, dizziness, respiratory disorders, and memory problems.

VA refers to these illnesses as “chronic multi-symptom illness” and “undiagnosed illnesses.” We prefer not to use the term “Gulf War Syndrome” when referring to medically unexplained symptoms reported by Gulf War Veterans. Why? Because symptoms vary widely.



VA Benefits

Gulf War Veterans may be eligible for a variety of VA benefits, including a Gulf War Registry health exam, the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, health care, and disability compensation for diseases related to military service. Their dependents and survivors also may be eligible for benefits. Gulf War Veterans are eligible for presumptive conditions due to exposure to airborne hazards.

Find these conditions in the Health Care and Benefits section of the Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures web page - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/index.asp>.

Presumptive conditions for Gulf War Veterans:

▪ **Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS)**

A condition of long-term and severe fatigue that is not relieved by rest and is not directly caused by other conditions.

▪ **Fibromyalgia**

A condition characterized by widespread muscle pain. Other symptoms may include insomnia, morning stiffness, headache, and memory problems.

▪ **Functional gastrointestinal disorders**

A group of conditions marked by chronic or recurrent symptoms related to any part of the gastrointestinal tract. Functional

condition refers to an abnormal function of an organ, without a structural alteration in the tissues. Examples include irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), functional dyspepsia, and functional abdominal pain syndrome.

▪ **Undiagnosed illnesses**

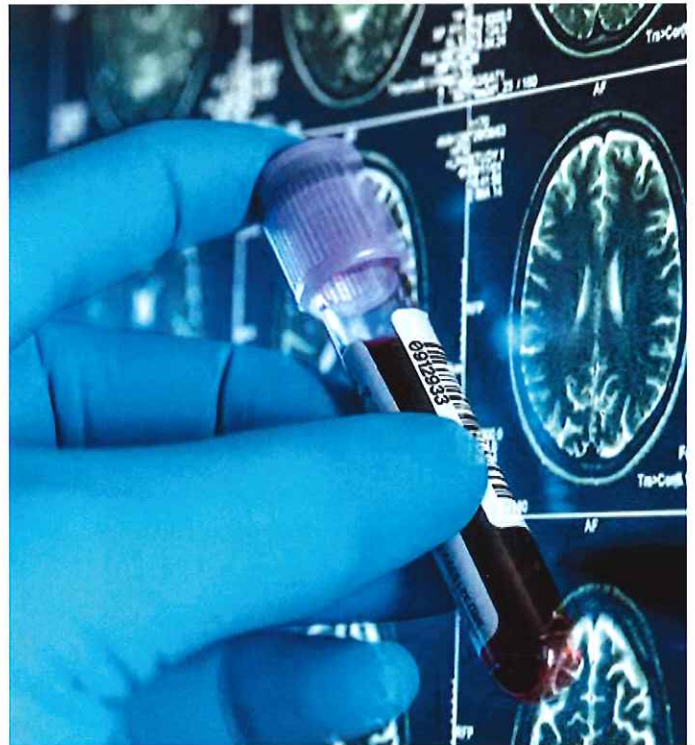
Symptoms may include but are not limited to: abnormal weight loss, fatigue, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances..

Research on infectious diseases and Gulf War Veterans

VA and other researchers continue to conduct research to investigate how service in the Gulf War is linked to illnesses Gulf War Veterans have experienced. Research includes:

- Multiyear health survey of Gulf War-era Veterans to find out how their health has changed over time
- Studies by VA's War Related Illness and Injury Study Center

VA contracts with the Health and Medicine Division (HMD) (formally known as the Institute of Medicine) of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to scientifically review the evidence for possible connections between Gulf War Veterans' illnesses and exposure to environmental agents or preventive medicine during service, and the best treatments for these illnesses.



[View more research on health effects of Gulf War service :](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/research.asp)

- <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/research.asp>
- [Gulf War and Health: Volume 10: Update of Health Effects of Serving in the Gulf War, 2016.](#)

Go to <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>
Or scan the QR code with your cell phone camera to go to the website above.

