

## **Veterans' Diseases Associated with Agent Orange**

- **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, Early-Onset** A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of herbicide exposure.
- **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 - See more at:  
<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp#sthash.L43B8N3R.dpuf>

## Priority Groups

### Priority Group 1

- Veterans with VA-rated service-connected disabilities 50% or more disabling
- Veterans determined by VA to be unemployable due to service-connected conditions

### Priority Group 2

- Veterans with VA-rated service-connected disabilities 30% or 40% disabling

### Priority Group 3

- Veterans who are Former Prisoners of War (POWs)
- Veterans awarded a Purple Heart medal
- Veterans whose discharge was for a disability that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty
- Veterans with VA-rated service-connected disabilities 10% or 20% disabling
- Veterans awarded special eligibility classification under Title 38, U.S.C., § 1151, "benefits for individuals disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation"
- Veterans awarded the Medal Of Honor (MOH)

### Priority Group 4

- Veterans who are receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits from VA
- Veterans who have been determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled

### Priority Group 5

- Nonservice-connected Veterans and noncompensable service-connected Veterans rated 0% disabled by VA with annual income below the VA's and geographically (based on your resident zip code) adjusted income limits.
- Veterans receiving VA pension benefits
- Veterans eligible for Medicaid programs

### Priority Group 6

- Compensable 0% service-connected Veterans
- Veterans exposed to Ionizing Radiation during atmospheric testing or during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- Project 112/SHAD participants
- Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975
- Veterans of the Persian Gulf War who served between August 2, 1990 and November 11, 1998
- \*Veterans who served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for not fewer than 30 days beginning August 1, 1953 and ending December 31, 1987
- Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998 as follows:
  - Currently enrolled Veterans and new enrollees who were discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003, are eligible for the enhanced benefits for 5 years post discharge.
  - Combat Veterans who were discharged between January 2009 and January 2011, and did not enroll in the VA health care during their 5 year period of eligibility have an additional one year to enroll and receive care. The additional one-year eligibility period began February 12, 2015 with the signing of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for America Veterans Act.

**Note:** At the end of this enhanced enrollment priority group placement time period Veterans will be assigned to the highest Priority Group their unique eligibility status at that time qualifies for.

**\*Note:** While eligible for Priority Group (PG) 6; until system changes are implemented you would be assigned to PG 7 or 8 depending on your income.

### Priority Group 7

- Veterans with gross household income below the geographically-adjusted income limits (GMT) for their resident location and who agree to pay copays

### Priority Group 8

- Veterans with gross household income above the VA and the geographically-adjusted income limits for their resident location and who agrees to pay copays

### **Veterans eligible for enrollment:**

Noncompensable 0% service-connected:

- Subpriority a: Enrolled as of January 16, 2003, and who have remained enrolled since that date and/or placed in this sub priority due to changed eligibility status
- Subpriority b: Enrolled on or after June 15, 2009 whose income exceeds the current VA or geographic income limits by 10% or less

Nonservice-connected and:

- Subpriority c: Enrolled as of January 16, 2003, and who have remained enrolled since that date and/or placed in this sub priority due to changed eligibility status
- Subpriority d: Enrolled on or after June 15, 2009 whose income exceeds the current VA or geographic income limits by 10% or less

### **Veterans not eligible for enrollment:**

Veterans not meeting the criteria above:

- Subpriority e: Noncompensable 0% service-connected (eligible for care of their SC condition only)
- Subpriority g: Nonservice-connected