

Veterans Corner
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Additional Presumptive Condition – Primary AL Amyloidosis

On July 27, 2007, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Institute of medicine issued its most recent report on its formal review of the scientific and medical literature on health effects potentially related to exposure to herbicides and related materials used during the Vietnam War, Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 2006. A task force was formed to review the findings of the report and to make recommendations to the Secretary with respect to adding any additional diseases to the list of diseases currently recognized as being associated with herbicide exposure in Vietnam. Based on the recommendations of the task force, the Secretary announced his decision that the evidence warrants establishment of a presumption of service connection based on service in the Republic of Vietnam for primary AL Amyloidosis. Any Vietnam veteran that has or thinks he has Amyloidosis should contact this office regarding a VA claim 884-4415.

Transition Assistance Program for Veterans (TAP)

The US Department of Labor's Transition Assistance Program for Veterans (TAP) website provides career information for active duty service members, National Guard, Reservists, and spouses of service members separating or retiring from the military.

The website (www.dol.gov/vets/programs.tap/main.htm) provides tools and information to use during transition from the military life to civilian life. Those interested in more information may either visit the website listed above or contact 1-877-USA-JOBS or to speak with a veterans Representative locally call Tom Galliher at 886-0200 Ext 9-142.

Employment Services for Veterans

The Department of Labor's VETS program offers employment and training services to eligible veterans through two principal programs: Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives Program. Information is available on the Internet at:

www.dol.gov/vets/programs/fact/employment_services_fs01.htm#DVOP#DVOP.

To contact a DVOP specialist, call Tom Rielly, State Employment Services at 518-457-1343.

VA Health Care Questions and Answers

If I am covered by another insurance company, do I have to pay the deductibles when being treated by the VA?

No. VA does not require that you pay those charges. Many insurance companies will apply VA co-payment charges toward satisfaction of their annual deductible.

Will VA pay for care in private facilities?

Usually not. VA provides care in private facilities at VA expense when there is a contractual arrangement. If VA approves your care in advance or receives timely notification of an emergency room visit or admission, your private facility care may be covered.

What if I get sick while traveling?

You may receive care at any VA facility in the country. Before traveling, you should familiarize yourself with the location of the nearest VA health care facility where you will be staying/ VA's authority to reimburse you for care in non-VA facilities is very limited.

EVENTS

The New York Racing Association is sponsoring a military day at the Saratoga Race Course on August 27, 2008. There will be organizations, VA counselors etc. on hand to assist veterans and their families.