

Do I need to be enrolled in the VA healthcare system to file a claim? No, you do not need to be enrolled to file a claim, but if you did want to apply for VA healthcare please visit <https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/>

Are there benefits for the spouse of a veteran? There are some benefits available to spouses of veterans. Visit the link below to see if you feel you may qualify -

https://www.choose.va.gov/family-members?utm_source=google&utm_medium=paid_search&utm_campaign=ar_pact_benefits_oy4&utm_content=non_branded&gclid=CjwKCAjwwr6wBhBcEiwAfMEQs-1-gZT-LDa2lZBGotyVAy1_RIBSpX9AIKyLZSJQ2D2wCB12nyS8exoCPcsQAvD_BwE

If you are the spouse of a disabled veteran, please visit the following link -

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/benefits-summary/SummaryofVADependentsandSurvivorsBenefits.pdf>

How do I know if I have a disability or if I am eligible for a disability rating?

<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/>

Why should I file a disability claim? If you receive a disability rating from the VA, there could be compensation for yourself and your family, along with possible healthcare benefits. These benefits include VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

<https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation/>

or possibly, payments for unpaid benefits

- <https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/general/accrued.pdf>

What does it mean to have a presumptive condition? To get a disability rating, your disability must connect to your military service. For many conditions, you must prove that your service caused the conditions, but for some conditions, the VA automatically assumes or presumes that your service caused your condition. These are called “presumptive conditions”. If you have a presumptive condition, you only need to meet the service requirements for that presumption.

*If you are diagnosed with a chronic disease within one year of active-duty release, you should apply for disability compensation. Examples of chronic disease include: arthritis, diabetes or hypertension. Or, if you served continuously for at least 90 days and are diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) after discharge, you can establish service connection for the disease.

Where can I find a list of all the areas for concern and presumptive conditions?

The following link will provide all the information regarding presumptive conditions

<https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/presumption.pdf>

There are also many other health conditions that are presumed to be caused by exposure to toxic or hazardous materials. If you have any of these conditions, you may be eligible for health care or benefits. For more information please

visit <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/>

How do I file a disability claim for a presumptive condition? You can file a claim online, by mail or in person. To file a claim on line, visit <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

To speak to a veteran's benefits counselor in Maryland, follow this link for the counselor in your area please visit <https://veterans.maryland.gov/maryland-department-of-veterans-affairs-service-benefits-program/>