THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS
PARKINSON’S DISEASE RESEARCH,
EDUCATION & CLINICAL CENTERS
(PADRECCS)

Gretchen Glenn, LCSW
Social Worker, Associate Director of Education
The Philadelphia VA Parkinson’s Disease Research, Education & Clinical
Center (PADRECC)
Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VAMC
www.parkinsons.va.gov

TALKING POINTS

- Overview of the PADRECCs and the National VA PD Consortium including care and services provided
- Eligibility for care at a PADRECC/Consortium Center
- VA Resources Available
**PADRECCs**
- Established in 2001 to serve the approximate 80,000 Veterans afflicted with PD (has since grown to over 110,000)
- Designed to deliver state-of-the-art clinical care, pioneering research and educational programs to an expansive geographic region staffed by internationally recognized movement disorder specialists
- 6 Centers of Excellences: Philadelphia, Richmond, Houston, West LA, San Francisco, and Portland/Seattle

**Consortium Network**
- Introduced in 2003 to promote awareness across VA by providing professional networking, mentorship and training opportunities for clinicians interested in movement disorders
- 2006 Consortium Center Network was launched to broaden the impact and reach of the PADRECC mission and provide access to specialized movement disorders care within all the Veteran Integrated Service Networks (VISNs)
- PADRECCs and Consortium Centers create a hub and spoke model of care
PADRECC MISSION

Clinical Care: Multidisciplinary Team approach

Education: Patient, Family & Professional Programs

Research

CLINICAL SERVICES

- Multidisciplinary Team approach
- Diagnosis and treat movement disorders
- DBS evaluations for PD and ET
- Neurostimulation for DBS
- Botox injections for dystonia, hemifacial spasms, spasticity and other indications requiring injections
- Neuropsychological assessment
- Disease education
- Psychosocial Assessments
- Palliative care discussions
- Referrals to PT, OT, Speech
### EDUCATION PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Education Programs</th>
<th>Professional Education Programs</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Monthly Virtual Support Groups</td>
<td>• Movement Disorders Fellowship program</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Annual Symposiums</td>
<td>• 2 Movement Disorder Webinars a year</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Distribution of print and media resources</td>
<td>• Monthly case conferences and journal clubs</td>
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<td>• Community outreach</td>
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https://www.parkinsons.va.gov/patients.asp

https://www.parkinsons.va.gov/clinicians.asp

### RESEARCH

- Surgical Interventions
- Drug Therapies
- Gait and Falling issues
- Depression and other psychiatric problems
- Non-motor fluctuations
- Exercise
- Basic science (lab studies)
- Drug Induced Parkinsonism (long term exposure to antipsychotic medications i.e. lithium, Haldol)
- Gene Mapping/genetic predictors
- Biomarkers
- Toxin Exposure

**This is not an exhaustive list**
How to Access VA Care

Eligibility for VA Healthcare

- A Veteran may be eligible for VA Health Care benefits if he/she served in the active military, naval, or air service and did not receive a dishonorable discharge.
- If you're a current or former member of the Reserves or National Guard, you must have been called to active duty by a federal order and completed the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty. If you had or have active-duty status for training purposes only, you don't qualify for VA health care.

To learn more about VA eligibility visit:

https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/
ELIGIBILITY & CARE AT A PADRECC OR CONSORTIUM CENTER

• Veteran must be enrolled in the VA Health Care System to receive care
  https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/

• Choose a PADRECC or Consortium Center to receive care
  • to find a center near you visit the PADRECC Getting Care Page: Getting Care - Parkinson’s Disease Research, Education and Clinical Centers (va.gov)

• VA primary care provider or neurologist makes a referral to the PADRECC or Consortium Center using an inter-facility consult (IFC), or the Veteran can self refer by calling the PADRECC or Consortium Center directly

• Call the PADRECC/Consortium Hotline at 1-800-949-1001 x20 5769 if you need assistance with this process.

www.parkinsons.va.gov

SERVICE CONNECTED VS. NON SERVICE CONNECTED
**Agent Orange & Other Toxin Exposures**

- **Agent Orange:** On October 30, 2010 the VA released its final regulation recognizing the association between Agent Orange and PD. Vietnam Era Veterans who develop Parkinson’s disease and were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service do not have to prove a connection between their disease and military service to be eligible to receive VA benefits. Exposure to Agent Orange could have occurred outside of Vietnam. Additional locations are listed on the VA’s Internet page, “Exposure to Agent Orange by Location” [https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/index.asp](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/index.asp).


- **Camp Lejeune:** In January 2017, the VA announced that Parkinson's disease has been added to the list of conditions with a presumption of service connection to those service personnel who were at Camp Lejeune for no less than 30 days between Aug. 1, 1953 and Dec. 31, 1987. [https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/)


**The PACT Act & Parkinson’s Disease**

- New law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic substances
- PD was NOT added to the list of presumptive conditions for Gulf War era and post 9/11 Veterans for burn pit and other toxic exposures.
- **PACT ACT DID expand presumptive locations for Agent Orange exposures-adding 5 new locations:**
  - Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976
  - Laos from December 1, 1965, through September 30, 1969
  - Cambodia at Mimat or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, through April 30, 1969
  - Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa from January 9, 1962, through July 31, 1980
  - Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, through September 30, 1977

[The PACT Act And Your VA Benefits | Veterans Affairs](#)
APPLYING FOR VA SERVICE CONNECTION

- Visit the below website or call Veteran Benefits Administration at 1-800-827-1000 to speak to a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) who can assist in the claim process.

- OR

- Contact local County Office of Veteran Affairs and make appointment with a Veteran Service Officer

VA BENEFITS

- Primary Care Services (including pharmacy benefit)
- Mental Health Care
- Rehab Services-PT, OT, Speech
- Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) Program
- Home Health Aid (HHA) Program
- Respite Care Service
- Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) Program
- Hospice/Palliative
- Prosthetic Equipment (DME)
- VA Nursing Home & Contracted Community Nursing Homes
- Caregiver Support Programs

Please note this is a highlight of VA Benefits and is not an exhaustive list. In addition, there are eligibility criteria and potential copays for many benefits which depend on income, service connection status and level of care required.
WHO CAN HELP?

- **VA Social Workers** - can assess your needs and make you aware of the availability and eligibility of services and help advocate for you!

- **VA Veteran Service Officers (VSO)** - can help with applying for or increasing VA disability benefits. They can help with the process which can be complicated and sometimes overwhelming. The VSO can monitor your claim and advocate for you!

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

- PADRECC National Website: [www.parkinsons.va.gov](http://www.parkinsons.va.gov)
- PADRECC/Consortium Hotline: 1-800-949-1001 x20 5769
- VA Health Care Eligibility: [https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/](https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/)
- Applying for VA Healthcare: [https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/](https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/)
- Veteran Benefits Website: [https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/](https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/)
- Veteran Benefits Hotline: 1-800-827-1000
- Agent Orange Website: [https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/index.asp](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/index.asp)
- VA Caregiver Support Program: [https://www.caregiver.va.gov/](https://www.caregiver.va.gov/)
- VA Geriatrics & Extended Care: [https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/](https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/)
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- Chair of the National VA Parkinson’s Disease Consortium Education Subcommittee

Thank you
We’re Here For You

Parkinson.org  1-800-4PD-INFO
Helpline@Parkinson.org

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