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

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## 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

## PARKINSON'S DISEASE RESEARCH EDUCATION & CLINICAL CENTERS (PADRECCS) & THE NATIONAL VA PD CONSORTIUM

### PADRECCs

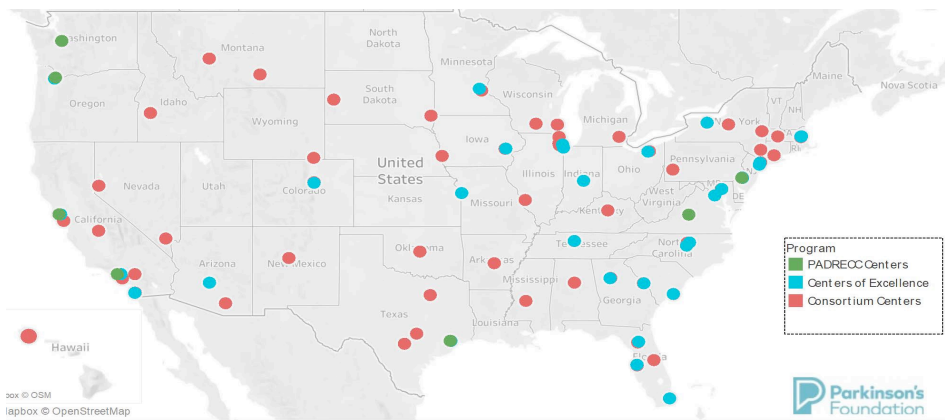
- Established in 2001 to serve the approximate 80,000 Veterans afflicted with PD (has since grown to over 110,000)
- Designed to deliver state-of-the-art clinical care, pioneering research and educational programs to an expansive geographic region staffed by internationally recognized movement disorder 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

## PARKINSON'S FOUNDATION AND VHA CARE REACH

**Map of Impact: Parkinson's Foundation's 33 U.S. Centers of Excellence, 6 PADRECCs & 53 Consortium Centers**



## 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, hemi-facial  
spasms, spasticity and  
other indications  
requiring injections

Neuropsychological  
assessment

Disease education

Psychosocial  
Assessments

Palliative care  
discussions

Referrals to PT, OT,  
Speech

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### Patient Education Programs

- Monthly Virtual Support Groups
- Annual Symposiums
- Distribution of print and media resources
- Community outreach

<https://www.parkinsons.va.gov/patients.asp>

### Professional Education Programs

- Movement Disorders Fellowship program
- 2 Movement Disorder Webinars a year
- Monthly case conferences and journal clubs

<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](http://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>
- **Parkinsonism:** In May 2021, VA announced Parkinsonism as 1 of 3 conditions added to the list of presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange. <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/89496/breaking-news-va-plans-expansion-benefits-disability-claims-conditions-related-certain-toxic-exposures/>
- **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/>
- **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI):** In December 2013 the VA released final regulation recognizing Parkinson's disease and Parkinsonism as a secondary condition to service-connected moderate or severe (TBI). [https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/news/VA\\_to\\_Expand\\_Benefits\\_for\\_Traumatic\\_Brain\\_Injury.asp](https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/news/VA_to_Expand_Benefits_for_Traumatic_Brain_Injury.asp)

## 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 Mimot 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](#)

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## APPLYING FOR VA SERVICE CONNECTION

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- 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.

<https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/>

OR

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

## VA BENEFITS

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.

- 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



## 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/>
- Applying for VA Healthcare: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/>
- VA Presumptive Disability Benefits Fact Sheet: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/presumption.pdf>
- Veteran Benefits Website: <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/>
- VA PACT Act: <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>
- Veteran Benefits Hotline: 1-800-827-1000
- Agent Orange Website: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/index.asp>
- VA Caregiver Support Program: <https://www.caregiver.va.gov/>
- VA Geriatrics & Extended Care: <https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/>
- Parkinson's Foundation- Frequently Asked Questions for Veterans: [https://www.parkinson.org/sites/default/files/documents/parkinsons-foundation-veterans-faq\\_0.pdf](https://www.parkinson.org/sites/default/files/documents/parkinsons-foundation-veterans-faq_0.pdf)

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- Chair of the National VA Parkinson's Disease Consortium Education Subcommittee



# We're Here For You



**Parkinson.org**



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



**Better Lives. Together.**