

## Welcome to our webinar series for Veterans



### Part 1: Resources for Veterans with Parkinson's

#### The program will begin shortly.

A few notes before we start:

- All attendees will be muted and off camera.
- Share a comment by using the **chat** box.
- Submit a question by using the **Q&A** feature.
- We will begin at 10 am PT/ 11 am MT/ 12 pm CT/ 1 pm ET
- Duration: 1 hour

Better Lives. Together.



Resources for Veterans  
with Parkinson's

Better Lives. Together.

## Our Mission



**The Parkinson's Foundation** makes life better for people with Parkinson's disease by improving care and advancing research toward a cure. In everything we do, we build on the energy, experience and passion of our global Parkinson's community.



**We have everything you need to live better with Parkinson's.**

## Our Goals



To help our global community live better with Parkinson's, we pursue **three goals**:



Improve **care** for everyone with Parkinson's



Advance **research** toward a cure



Empower and educate our global **community**



## Weekly programming that includes:

- Mindfulness Mondays
- Wellness Wednesdays
- Fitness Fridays
- Expert Briefings
- EP Salud en Casa

Better Lives. Together.

## [www.Parkinson.org/Veterans](http://www.Parkinson.org/Veterans)



**FAQ**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**  
*For Veterans With Parkinson's Disease and Their Care Partners*

### Managing Parkinson's

- Diet & Nutrition
- Emotional Well-Being
- Advice for the Newly Diagnosed
- Activities of Daily Living
- Dental Health
- Sexual Health
- Living Alone
- Veterans and Parkinson's Disease
  - Medical Care and Treatment
  - Agent Orange & Other Toxic Exposures
  - Veterans Benefits
  - Caring for a Veteran with Parkinson's
- Talking to Children About Parkinson's

### In Your Area

### Resources & Support

### PD Library

### Newly Diagnosed: Building a Better Life with Parkinson's

### Legal / Financial / Insurance

### My PD Story

### Parkinson's Today Blog

### For Caregivers

### Parkinson's Foundation Online Courses

## Veterans and Parkinson's Disease

[View](#) [Outline](#) [Revisions](#)



Over 110,000 veterans with Parkinson's disease (PD) receive care through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Most people with Parkinson's develop symptoms at 50 years of age or older. One million people in the U.S. live with Parkinson's today. This number will rise as our population ages, as will the number of veterans diagnosed with the disease. While living with Parkinson's can be challenging, an early diagnosis and beginning [treatment](#) can help people live well with Parkinson's.

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# Thank you



**DON and LORRAINE FREEBERG FOUNDATION**

Better Lives. Together.

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## Upcoming Veterans Webinars



June 29

Resources  
for Veterans  
with  
Parkinson's

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Veterans &  
Parkinson's:  
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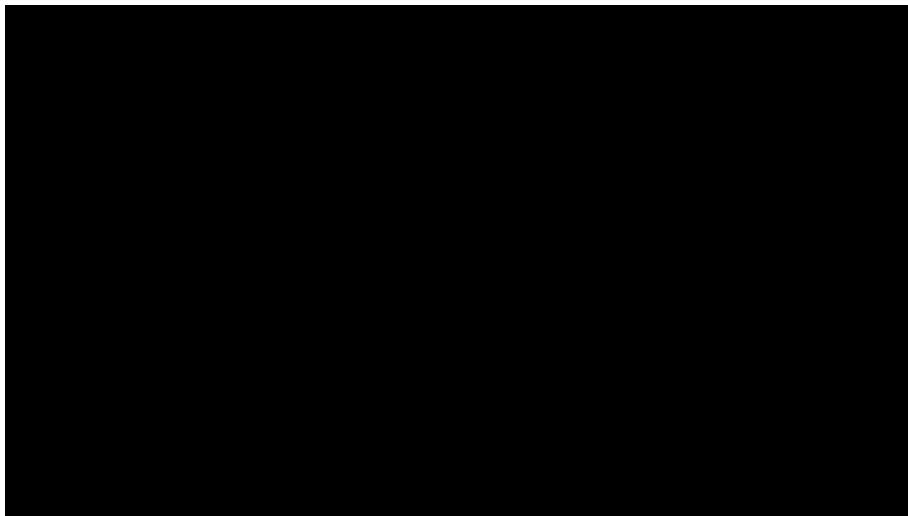
Better Lives. Together.



## Resources for Veterans with Parkinson's

**Better Lives. Together.**

## An Army Nurse – Joanne Martin



**Better Lives. Together.**

# 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. Crescenzo VAMC

[www.parkinsons.va.gov](http://www.parkinsons.va.gov)

**VA**



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration  
Parkinson's Disease Research,  
Education & Clinical Centers

# TALKING POINTS

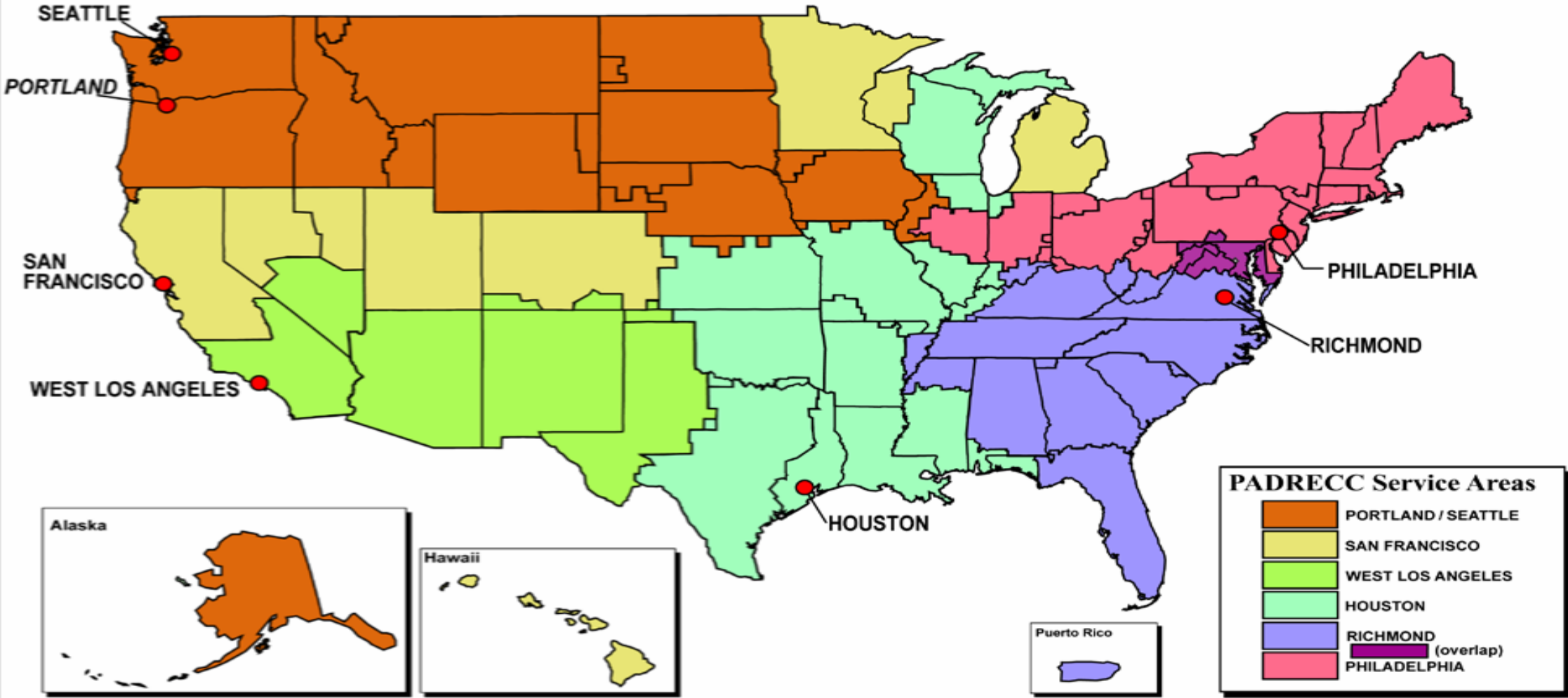
- Overview of the PADRECCs and the National VA PD Consortium including care and services provided
- Eligibility for care at a PADRECC/Consortium Center
- VA Resources Available

# PARKINSON'S DISEASE RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND CLINICAL CENTERS (PADRECC)

- In 2001, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) established the Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Centers (PADRECCs) to revolutionize services for the approximate 80,000 Veterans afflicted with PD (this number has since grown to approximately 110,000).
- Each PADRECC is designed to deliver state-of-the-art clinical care, pioneering research and educational programs to an expansive geographic region. These centers are staffed by internationally recognized movement disorder specialists and researchers.
- 6 Centers of Excellence are located at the **Philadelphia, Richmond, Houston, West LA, San Francisco and Portland/Seattle** VA Medical Centers.



# Service Areas for PADRECCs

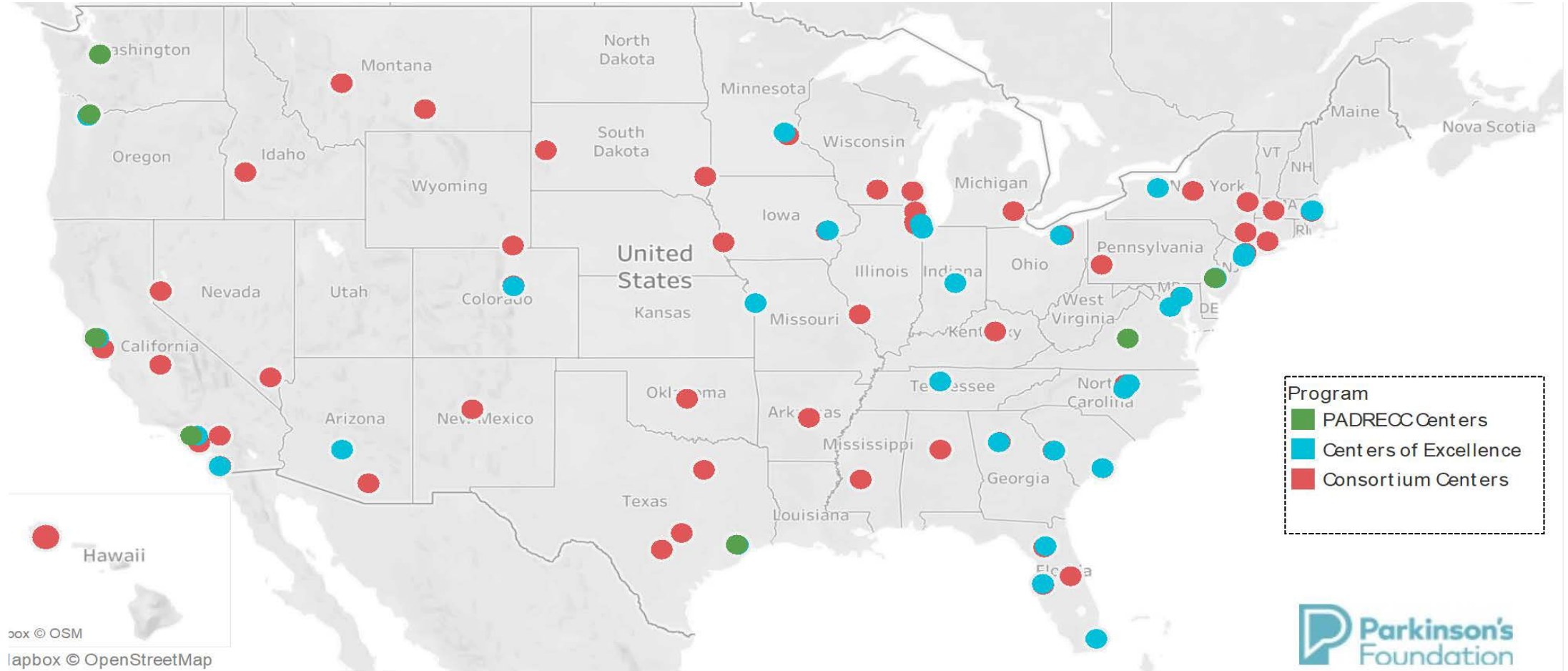


# THE NATIONAL VA PARKINSON'S DISEASE CONSORTIUM

- In 2003 the PADRECCs introduced the National VA Parkinson's Disease Consortium in an effort to promote awareness across the VA Health Care System by providing professional networking, mentorship and training opportunities and is comprised of VA physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, physical and occupational therapists and other allied health professionals.
- The Consortium Center Network was launched in 2006 to broaden the impact of the PADRECC mission. These designated Centers offer Veterans convenient access to specialized movement disorders services within all Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs).
- The PADRECCs and Consortium Centers create a hub and spoke model of care that is highly innovative and effective.

# 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 treatment of 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

# TELEHEALTH PROGRAM

- **Telehealth Clinics-** provided to VA Medical Centers and outpatient clinics as well as Veteran State Homes.
- **VA Video Connect (VVC)-**into the Veteran's home or anywhere they are located
- **Psychiatric Consult Services-** to 52 VAMC sites

**VA**Health



# 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>

### My Parkinson's Story


My Parkinson's Story on YouTube is a series of short videos addressing various aspects of Parkinson's disease told through the grace of Veterans' stories:


### VA Parkinson's disease playlist on YouTube

- Early Parkinson's Disease
- Deep Brain Stimulation and Parkinson's Disease
- The Impact of Depression in Parkinson's Disease
- Thinking and Memory Problems with Parkinson's Disease
- Impact of Falls and Parkinson's Disease
- Sleep Problems and Parkinson' Disease
- My Parkinson's Story: ADVANCED PARKINSON'S
- My Parkinson's Story: DRIVING
- My Parkinson's Story: EXERCISE
- My Parkinson's Story: HOSPITALIZATION
- My Parkinson's Story: IMPULSIVE BEHAVIOR
- My Parkinson's Story: MEDICATIONS
- My Parkinson's Story: The CAREGIVER
- My Parkinson's Story: SPEECH and SWALLOWING


### Patient Education Brochures:

Patient Education Brochures were developed by the PADRECCs to provide patients and families with information on the most common topics concerning Parkinson's disease.

Exercise and Physical Activity 

Fall Prevention 

Motor Symptoms of Parkinson's Disease 

Non-Motor Symptoms of Parkinson's Disease 

Agent Orange and Toxic Exposures and Parkinson's Disease 

### Suggested Education Essentials:

Suggested Education Essentials for Veterans with Parkinson's Disease 

is a document that has been reviewed by the PADRECC Education Committee and includes useful links to resources that provide information on topics such as: Overview of PD, Exercise, Medications, Nutrition, and Organizations

## PADRECC Support Groups

### Joint Philadelphia & Richmond PADRECC

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month 1pm-2pmEST

Location: Virtual via WebEx

Contact: Gretchen Glenn: [Gretchen.glenn@va.gov](mailto:Gretchen.glenn@va.gov)

### San Francisco PADRECC

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month 4pm-5:30pm PST

Location: Virtual

Contact: Annie Li Wong [annie.liwong@va.gov](mailto:annie.liwong@va.gov)

### Houston PADRECC

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month 12:30pm-1:30pm CST

Location: virtual

Contact: Sally J Samuel 713-794-8410

### West Los Angeles PADRECC

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month 10am-11am PST

Location: Virtual

Contact: Patricia Pittman: 310-478-3711 x48001

### Northwest PADRECC

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month 10am-1:30am PST

Location: Virtual

Contact: 503-220-8262 x58594

[For Veterans and Family - Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Centers \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/research-education/)



# 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.

SERVICE  
CONNECTED  
VS.  
NON SERVICE  
CONNECTED

- **Service-connected (SC)** status refers to Veterans who are disabled by an injury or disease that was caused or aggravated by military service or occurred while serving in the military. PD is a presumptive condition for some Veterans, which means that it is presumed that the disability is caused by military service if served during specific war time and/or exposed to certain toxin exposures
- **Non-service connected (NSC)** status refers to Veterans who have a disability or health issue not related to their military service. Veterans diagnosed with PD who do not meet the criteria for a presumptive service connection may be eligible for some VA benefits under the non-service-connected status, typically there is income limit.

# 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>
- **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)
- **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/>

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# 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.

<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



# PADRECCS & THE PARKINSON'S FOUNDATION CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE: WORKING TOGETHER

- Veterans who are eligible for movement disorder care at a VA do not need to give up their community Neurologist.
- Several PADRECCs partner with COEs to provide fellowship opportunities
- Collaborative Patient Education Programs
- Several PADRECC Attendings have appointments at the University COE
- Research collaboration

# 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!

# Parkinson's Foundation Resources for Veterans



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



- **Parkinson.org/Veterans**

Information and resources for veterans with PD on topics including:

- Medical care & treatment
- Veterans' benefits
- Agent Orange & other toxic exposures
- Care partner support

Explore stories shared by veterans, watch educational webinars, and find an event for veterans with PD in your community.

- **FAQ Guide for Veterans with PD and their Care Partners** – digital book
- **Veterans and Parkinson's** – fact sheet





QUESTIONS

# 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/>
- Veteran Benefits Website: <https://benefits.va.gov/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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# We're Here For You



**Parkinson.org**

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



**Better Lives. Together.**