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According to the VA glossary of terms, the terms Environmental Contaminants and Gulf War Illness are one and the same!

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140401074321/http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/glossary.asp#e> – John Olin, 30 January 2016



Environmental Contaminants / Gulf War Illness:

Gulf War Veterans were exposed to a wide variety of environmental hazards and potential harmful substances during their service in Southwest Asia. These include depleted uranium, pesticides, the anti-nerve gas pill pyridostigmine bromide, infectious diseases, chemical and biological warfare agents, and vaccinations (including anthrax and botulinum toxoid), and oil well free smoke and petroleum products. VA recognizes that there are other health risk factors encountered by Gulf War Veterans. Veterans with service during the Gulf War are eligible to receive treatment for conditions related to this service.

If the treatment provided is for an illness or symptom that may possibly be associated with environmental contamination, copay for medical care and medication copay will not be charged.

Conditions Associated with Environmental Contaminants:

Persistent fatigue
Skin rash
Headache
Arthralgias/myalgias
Sleep disturbance
Forgetfulness
Joint pain
Shortness of breath/chest pain
Feverishness
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

However, the above language was quietly removed by the VA very recently.

See for yourself: <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/glossary.asp#e>
It now reads:

Environmental Contaminants: Environment hazards and potential harmful substances such as pesticides and chemical and biological warfare agents. **It is very important to note that the language recently removed from the glossary of terms by VA had a huge implication on claimants co-pays.** "If the treatment provided is for an illness or symptom that may possibly be associated with environmental contamination, copay for medical care and medication copay will not be charged."