



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, September 25, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 38



This-N-That

Good afternoon Jim,

It seems the VA's IT department is doing more and more re-vamping of their main website. Most of the alerts I normally get, come in by the hundreds on a weekly basis.

Now I hadn't received anything since 09/25/22 so I had to go fishing and digging in order to be able to assemble this week's newsletter.

One of the things that does cross my mind on an annual basis, how prepared we are for emergencies. Here in CA and living in the low desert area where we're prone to mild to massive fires.

Two years ago we were literally surrounded by fires and with all the smoke I chose to take mom and I to a hotel down in Orange

County to get away from it all. And I always make sure we have one piece of luggage each with changes of clothing, hygiene products, comfortable shoes, etc. then another one filled with non-perishable food items and bottled water.

We are fortunate to have dedicated emergency service personnel who respond to the scene of disasters and emergencies quickly and efficiently.

However, as individuals, we need to do our part to be as prepared as possible so that if and when a disaster strikes, we know what to do and where to go. This emergency preparedness can mean the difference between life and death because every minute counts!

I urge you to prepare to respond to an emergency now. Have a plan ahead of time and save time during an event.

Here are some things to consider:

- **What disaster is likely to strike in your area?**
 - o You may need to have different plans for different emergencies.

- **Do you know what route to take in an emergency evacuation?**
 - o What if your primary route is blocked?

- **Do you have copies of important documents ready to be grabbed?**
 - o This can include legal records, identification and birth certificates, and insurance paperwork.

- **Where can your pets go?**
 - o Most emergency evacuation shelters do not accept domestic animals.

- **How will you communicate with your family in an emergency**

situation?

o Do you have an out-of-area contact that everyone in your family knows to check in with in case of impacted phone/internet access?

• Does your emergency kit need updating?

o Make sure to include food, water, clothing, medication, flashlights, batteries, personal toiletries, and other necessary supplies to last for three days.

Being prepared can save your and your loved ones' lives.

Please do visit our website, www.veterans-for-change.org or if not visited in a while, please be sure to check often for updates on documents, web links, etc., we are a bit slow, but are moving as fast as we can, yet not over-loading to put more work on our Webmaster when we get to the transition into the new look.

When subscribing to the website, try to complete as much as possible, then it will alert me of a new subscriber, once I approve it will send you a notification E-Mail and you're good to go, but some E-Mail programs will throw the notification into a SPAM or JUNK folder, so be sure to check there too.

And being a subscriber will open up access to thousands more files and documents, will also allow you to comment on all the various articles which non-subscribers don't even see.

I do need a little help for a Veteran searching for any fellow Veterans who served at Camp Ethan Allen in Korea between 1968-1969.

If you served during this time at this camp, please contact me with permission to forward your contact info to this other Veteran in need.

I had added 55 new web links to the system most fall under the

category NIH (aka National Institute of Health) and a couple under Other Resources, so check them out.

On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family good health!

Kindest regards,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org

PS: If you like what we're doing, have found the newsletter and website useful, please help us keep the site, newsletter and phone/fax lines operational so we can continue to provide in my humble opinion the best there is to offer Veterans. Click here to contribute what you can, please keep in mind this cannot be used as a tax deduction, it's merely a contribution in support. [Contribute](#)



VA Extends Caregiver Benefits

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it will extend caregiver benefits until October 1, 2025. This extension will ensure that thousands of families will continue to receive stipends for the next three years.

The caregiver program provides health care and benefits, including a stipend, to individuals who devote their time providing oversight of veterans who need assistance and supervision and cannot live independently. The stipends vary based on location, but range from approximately \$1,800 to \$3,000 a month, depending on the level of care required. About 33,000 veterans who are currently enrolled in the program. Nearly 20,000 of those are Post-9/11 veterans who applied to the program before October 2020 ("Legacy Families"). Military Times reports that a VA internal review showed as many as 90 percent of the legacy families who are receiving VA caregiver benefits would have been kicked out of the program as a result of the earlier eligibility changes.

The FRA expressed concern that the VA family caregiver program's expansion was not being properly implemented in its testimony before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans affairs Committees in March. Despite objections from FRA and other VSO organizations, the VA's revised regulation tightened the eligibility criteria substantially beyond what is required by law. As the VA's regulation substantially changes the program's eligibility criteria, the process to determine a veteran's "need" for assistance, and the entire methodology and basis for the stipend paid to the caregiver. FRA is concerned that many caregivers will be unable to obtain assistance which was the intent of the 2018 Act.



Air Force marks diamond anniversary with 75-fighter formation in Alaska

The U.S. Air Force celebrated dominating the skies for three quarters of a century by gathering 75 of its most lethal warbirds in Alaska.

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Military Veterans Advocacy



Military Veterans Advocacy is offering some free memberships for those who are struggling to get their claims through, are having financial difficulties. Annual dues are \$25.00 per year. Our organization includes special sections, Blue Water Navy, Veterans of Southeast Asia, Central Pacific Islands, Veterans of Panama Canal Zone, and Okinawa. We have gift members available which can be paid by your fellow brother or sister Veterans. Gift members are kept confidential.

We are offering free lifetime memberships to widows/widowers of Veterans who died of service connected diseases? Please contact Robin Barr for more information.

Click [HERE](#) and help a Veteran.

You may contact Robin Barr at robin.barr@mvadvocacy.org



Institutional betrayal linked to suicidal behavior

Institutional betrayal is linked to suicidal behavior and worse mental health in women who experienced military sexual trauma, according to a Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center study. Institutional betrayal refers to harm caused by an institution (such as the military) to someone dependent on that institution. Researchers surveyed 229 women Veterans who screened positive for military sexual trauma. Those who felt a sense of institutional betrayal had increased odds of suicidal thoughts and attempts following their military service. They also had more severe depression and PTSD symptoms. Institutional betrayal was not linked to non-suicidal self-injury or substance misuse. The results underscore the need to address institutional betrayal among women who experience military sexual trauma, say the researchers. (Journal of Trauma & Dissociation, Sept. 7, 2022)



Health records inaccurate on drug overdoses

Nonfatal drug overdoses are underreported in health records, found a study by Birmingham VA researchers and colleagues. Researchers compared self-reported overdoses over three years with diagnostic codes in the medical records of Veterans receiving care both in VA and in the community. Only about 28% of alcohol, 23% of sedative, 12% of opioid, and 6% of cocaine overdoses were recorded with diagnostic codes. Veterans with substance use disorder diagnoses were more likely to self-report overdoses. The findings support the need for alternative approaches to overdose surveillance in public health, according to the researchers. (American Journal on Addictions, Aug. 24, 2022)



Traumatic brain injury may increase risk of cardiovascular disease

Veterans who have had a traumatic brain injury (TBI) had increased odds of developing cardiovascular disease, found a study by VA researchers and colleagues. The study analyzed data on more than 1.5 million Veterans, including over 300,000 with a history of TBI. Those with TBI history were more likely to develop cardiovascular disease. All levels of TBI increased the risk of stroke, coronary artery disease, and peripheral artery disease. Both mild and moderate to severe TBI were associated with increased risk of death due to cardiovascular disease. The results suggest that Veterans who have sustained a TBI may have increased burden of cardiovascular disease as they age, say the researchers. More study is needed to determine whether this increased risk can be modified. (JAMA Neurology, Sept. 6, 2022)



House Passes Five Veteran's Bills

The House recently passed five veterans bills intended to improve the Veterans Benefit Administration and to ensure that disabled veterans, student veterans and their families and survivors get their earned benefits quickly. This includes the Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act, which will help families who are grappling with skyrocketing inflation.

The "VA Home Loan Benefit Act" that also passed the House will ease the homebuying process for veterans by letting them use the same modern purchasing tools that non-veteran homebuyers already use. This will help them get into their new homes faster.

The following bills were passed out of the House:

- H.R.7735: Improving Access to the VA Home Loan Benefit Act, (Rep. Bost)
- H.R.7939: The Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act, (Rep. Levin)
- H.R.7846: Veterans' Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment Act of 2022 (Reps. Luria and Nehls)
- H.R.5916: Wounded Warrior Access Act, as amended (Rep. Aguilar); and
- H.R. 8260: Faster Payments to Veterans Survivors' Act (Rep. Pappas).

These bills now go to the Senate for further consideration.





Your actions

could save a life.

Showing you care can make a big difference to someone in crisis.

VeteransCrisisLine.net



Medical Journal: Post-9/11 Veterans have Higher than Expected Death Rates

The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) recently published a report that found that Post-9/11 veterans are dying at a higher rate than non-veterans. The study attributed almost 34 percent of Post 9/11 veteran's deaths to complications from traumatic brain injury (TBI).

The JAMA study found that among Post 9/11 veterans, 17.5 percent had mild TBI and three percent had a moderate to severe TBI. There were 43,190 veteran deaths with TBI and that 3,858 more veterans dies compared to the general population after adjusting for veteran population and non-veteran population. Deaths of veterans were predominately by suicide [according to the report](#).



50 Years Beyond: The Vietnam Veteran Experience

On September 27 and 28, The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) Headquarters located in Alexandria, Virginia, will play host to a select group of Virginia-based Vietnam War Veterans who have been selected to be part the Virginia War Memorial's exhibit entitled, "50 Years Beyond: The Vietnam Veteran Experience."

While at FRA HQ, each veteran will have a professional photo session taken and be interviewed about their experiences associated with the Vietnam Veteran War. Eventually, both components will become part of the exhibit, which opens on Jan. 27, 2023, at the [Virginia War Memorial](#) located in Richmond, Virginia.

The Virginia War Memorial is collaborating with award-winning photographer and U.S. Navy veteran Laura Hatcher to take the contemporary photos of the Vietnam veterans selected. Videographer extraordinaire, Pamela Hart Vines will then interview and capture the veterans' stories on video.

The FRA HQ is one of four sites throughout Virginia being used to photograph, video and collect the veterans' stories. The response from Women Virginia Vietnam Veterans has been low. If you know of any who desires to be part of this exhibit, please have them contact the War Memorial by email exhibits@vawarmemorial.org or call 804-786-2060.



‘They will never be forgotten’: Yokosuka honors 2017 Navy collision victims, other fallen sailors

A ceremony honored 180 sailors who died this year across the Navy, in addition to remembering those who died in the USS Fitzgerald and the USS John S. McCain collisions.

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Military to hire 2,000 civilians to aid sexual assault victims, train troops about prevention

Earlier this month, defense officials said that they were speeding up the hiring efforts after an annual report on the prevalence of sexual assault and harassment in the military showed a 13% increase in 2021.

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Know the Warning Signs

It Matters.

Sometimes, a crisis may involve thoughts of suicide. Learn to recognize these warning signs:

- Hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends

The presence of the following signs requires immediate attention:

- Thinking about hurting or killing themselves
- Looking for ways to kill themselves
- Talking about death, dying or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse

..... Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net) or text to **838255**



National Guard could lose up to 14,000 soldiers in next two years because of COVID vaccine mandate

The Army National Guard is already operating at about 98% of its goal end-strength of 336,000, the chief of the National Guard Bureau said.

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Air Force secretary reverses cuts in special duty pay

The Air Force will not cut special duty assignment pay after all, reversing a decision that would have slashed as much as \$450 a month from some paychecks, the service's top civilian said.

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PTSD symptoms linked to suicide risk

Improving PTSD symptoms can reduce the risk of suicide, found a study by White River Junction VA researchers and colleagues. The study included data on more than 750,000 Veterans diagnosed with PTSD between 1999 and 2018. Researchers found that any level of PTSD symptoms was linked to double the rate of death by suicide one month after assessment, compared to those without PTSD symptoms. Worsening PTSD symptoms were associated with a 25% greater long-term suicide mortality rate. Veterans who achieve remission from PTSD had a much lower suicide rate than those who still had PTSD symptoms. The results show lowering PTSD symptoms can reduce suicide risk, say the researchers, but only if Veterans reach remission levels. (British Journal of Psychiatry, Aug. 23, 2022)



Intensive lifestyle intervention improves diabetes in older adults

A lifestyle intervention strategy can be highly effective for older adults with diabetes, according to a Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center study. One hundred older adults with diabetes were assigned either one year of intensive lifestyle intervention or healthy lifestyle control treatment. The lifestyle intervention involved a weight management program and exercise training, including weekly interactions with dietitians and trainers. The control treatment consisted of group educational sessions about a healthy diet. A1c, a measure of diabetes control, improved significantly more in the intervention group. This group also saw greater weight loss and better performance on physical performance tests. Participants in the lifestyle intervention group were also able to decrease their insulin doses. The results show that an intensively managed lifestyle intervention can help improve older diabetic patients' health and quality of life, say the researchers. (Diabetes Care, Sept. 1, 2022)



Links to Other Stories

- 1) World War II Veteran Charlie Kohler, 101, tells his Caregiver support story
- 2) Vision-enhancing eyewear soon to be readily available at VA hospitals
- 3) Biden's use of Marines during Philadelphia speech adds to debate over politicization of the military
- 4) Generation of Americans didn't live through 9/11. They don't know why we were in Afghanistan for 20 years.
- 5) Arizona Veteran Paralyzed in Iraq Walks in Exoskeleton: 'Amazing Feeling'
- 6) VA's new, multibillion-dollar health records system needs major improvements, agency says
- 7) Physician Indicted in \$10 Million Health Care Fraud Scheme
- 8) Owner of Counseling Agency and Supervising Manager Sentenced on Healthcare and Wire Fraud Charges
- 9) Columbia Woman Sentenced to 57 Months in Prison for Health Care Fraud
- 10) Man Receives Ten Year Prison Sentence for His Role in Prescription Drug Scheme Involving Montgomery Physician
- 11) Pharmacy Owner Sentenced to Prison for Health Care Fraud



Melatonin may lower risk of death from sepsis

Melatonin lowered the risk of death from sepsis, in a Columbia VA study. Sepsis is a potentially life-threatening condition in which chemicals released by the body to fight infection damage its own tissue. Prior research has suggested that melatonin—a hormone related to sleep regulation—could benefit sepsis patients. The researchers studied data on more than 9,000 patients admitted to the hospital with sepsis. Those given melatonin within the first day of hospitalization had a 38% reduced risk of 30-day, in-hospital mortality, compared with those not given melatonin. The findings suggest that melatonin may have important effects beyond sleep regulation and could be a useful treatment for sepsis, say the researchers. (Journal of Pineal Research, September 2022)



Use of complementary and integrative health for Gulf War illness

Many Veterans with Gulf War illness use complementary and integrative health (CIH) treatments, found a VA study. CIH practices include non-mainstream care such as acupuncture, yoga, and chiropractic care. Researchers looked at health care data on more than 1,000 Gulf War-era Veterans. Over half had used at least one CIH approach in the last six months. Women Veterans, white Veterans, and Veterans with higher levels of education were the most likely to use CIH. Those with a Gulf War illness diagnosis and higher symptom severity were more likely to use CIH. Over three-quarters of Veterans who used CIH to treat Gulf War illness symptoms said it was helpful. About 72% indicated that they would use CIH approaches if they were available at VA. The results could inform decisions on expanding CIH treatments for Veterans, say the researchers.

(Complementary Therapies in Clinical Practice, July 31, 2022)



Robot-assisted surgery increasing in VA

The use of robot-assisted surgery in VA has increased significantly, according to a VA study. Researchers looked at data on three common surgery types performed in VA. Out of more than 100,000 surgeries, nearly 5% used robotics during the five-year study period. The proportion of robotically assisted surgeries increased from 1.5% to 10.5% from 2015 to 2019. Hernia repair surgery had the greatest increase in robotic use. The Northeast, Midwest, and West Coast of the United States saw the largest increases in robotic use. The results suggest that VA continues to be at the forefront of medical research and innovation, according to the researchers, but the reasons for regional differences should be investigated. (Journal of Surgical Research, Aug. 11, 2022)



Prescription opioid use disorder treatment lowers death risk compared with methadone

A prescription medication used to treat opioid use disorder may lower the risk of death compared with methadone, found a White River Junction VA study. Opioid agonist treatments (OATs) are medications that reduce opioid withdrawal and cravings. Methadone is usually given at a treatment facility as a daily liquid dose. Buprenorphine can be prescribed and does not require observed dosing like methadone. Researchers looked at outcomes for nearly 62,000 VA patients with opioid use disorder taking one of the two treatments. Buprenorphine was linked to a 20% lower risk of death from any cause compared to methadone, and a 40% lower risk of suicide. The rates of death from overdose were similar with the two treatments. The results support less restrictive buprenorphine prescribing to help patients with opioid use disorder, say the researchers. (Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavia, July 15, 2022)



Veteran suicide rate decreases for 2 consecutive years, VA report states

“This year’s report shows real progress, but there is still so much work to be done,” VA Secretary Denis McDonough said in a prepared statement.

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VA’s new, multibillion-dollar health records system needs major improvements, agency says

A multibillion-dollar electronic health records system launched less than two years ago by the Department of Veterans Affairs needs major improvements, agency officials told senators on Wednesday.

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Study finds 37% greater veteran suicide rate than reported by VA

An exhaustive study four years in the making has found nearly a 40% higher rate of veteran suicides than that reported by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

[Read More](#)

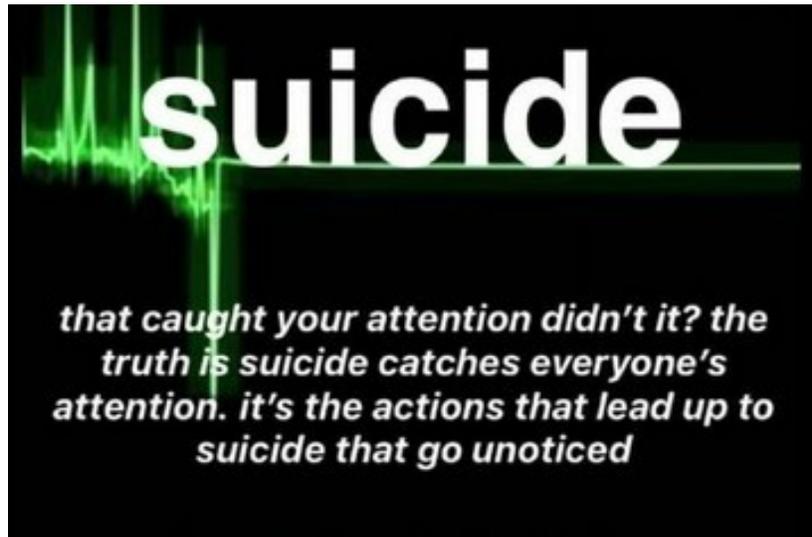


Overseas Deployed Warrior Day will soon honor veterans in South Korea

The South Korean Cabinet has approved a measure to designate a day honoring South Korean service members who served abroad, including those sent on United Nations peacekeeping missions.

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US veterans freed after being held captive for months by Russian proxies

Andy Tai Huynh and Alexander J. Drueke had been taken captive in June in Ukraine's Kharkiv region.

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Drug may help treat lupus skin damage

A team including a Corporal Michael J. Crescenze VA Medical Center researchers identified a drug that may help treat a form of lupus that involves the skin. Lupus is an autoimmune disease, in which the body's immune system attacks its own tissue. One form, cutaneous lupus erythematosus, can cause irreversible skin damage. The researchers compared outcomes for patients with lupus treated with a drug called litifilimab and those given a placebo. Those treated with the drug showed improvements in skin disease severity, compared to the placebo group. While larger trials are needed, the results suggest that litifilimab may be a useful treatment for this type of lupus, say the researchers. (New England Journal of Medicine, July 28, 2022)



HIV may increase risk of head and neck cancers

Veterans with HIV/AIDS may have increased risk of head and neck cancers, found a study by Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center researchers and colleagues. The study looked at VA patient data from 1999 to 2016. It included more than 45,000 Veterans with HIV/AIDS and over 160,000 HIV-negative Veterans. Those with HIV/AIDS had nearly twice the risk of head and neck cancers. Veterans with HIV/AIDS were more likely to be human papilloma virus (HPV)-positive than HIV-negative Veterans. The results suggest that HIV may play a role in the development of head and neck cancers, including those caused by viruses such as HPV, according to the researchers. (Cancer, July 22, 2022)



COVID-19 boosters effective against Omicron and Delta variants

COVID-19 vaccine boosters were highly effective against recent virus variants, found a study by VA White River Junction researchers and colleagues. The study included data on more than 110,000 Veterans, mostly older and male, who had a COVID test between November 2021 and January 2022. Protection against both the Omicron and Delta COVID-19 variants was better in those who also had a booster dose of an mRNA vaccine, compared with those who only had a two-dose vaccine. Boosters were 64% effective against Omicron infection, while initial vaccination was only 12% effective. For the Delta variant, vaccinations with a booster were 90% effective against infection, versus 54% for initial vaccination. For preventing hospitalization, booster doses were 89% effective during the Omicron period and 94% effective during the Delta period, compared with the two-dose vaccines, which were 63% effective against Omicron and 75% effective against Delta. For preventing death, vaccines combined with a booster dose were 94% effective against Omicron and 96% against the Delta variant. The results show that vaccine boosters increase the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination against infection, hospitalization, and death, according to the researchers. (BMJ Open, Aug. 3, 2022)



Using AI to predict suicide risk

Analyzing electronic health records with artificial intelligence could help predict which Veterans are at risk for suicide, found a VA White River Junction study. Researchers applied natural language processing (NLP) to VA electronic health records from 2015 and 2016. NLP is a branch of artificial intelligence that teaches computers to understand the way that humans speak and write language. The NLP technique was applied to unstructured health records, which are clinician-written notes that do not include key words and diagnostic codes. The NLP computer model was accurate at predicting which Veterans in the sample population died by suicide. It correctly predicted 74% of suicide cases in the study sample. This approach has potential to improve the accuracy of suicide risk prediction, say the researchers. (Psychiatry Research, July 1, 2022)



Arm prosthetic satisfaction survey adapted to capture women's needs

VA Providence researchers and colleagues modified an upper-limb prosthetic satisfaction survey to make it more responsive to women. Women with an upper-arm amputation are more likely than men to stop using their prostheses. The researchers added items specifically tailored to women to a widely used survey on prosthetic use and satisfaction. The new survey questions addressed topics such as device size, appearance, and fit under clothes. The updated survey showed good reliability in a test of 468 participants with amputation. The researchers recommend that new comfort and appearance subscales be added to the assessment in clinical use to better address the concerns of women prosthetic users. (Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, June 12, 2022)



Less diabetes medication not linked to worse outcomes for Veterans in nursing homes

Reducing diabetes medication in older Veterans residing in nursing homes did not lead to worse outcomes, in a study by VA Pittsburgh researchers. Guidelines advise against tight glycemic control in diabetic patients with advanced dementia or limited life expectancy. Researchers analyzed data on more than 2,000 older diabetic Veterans living in nursing homes. Of those, 27% had their diabetes medications de-intensified. Veterans taking less medication had similar rates of emergency room visits, hospitalization, and death as those taking higher doses. The results suggest that reducing diabetes treatment could be a way to lower medication burden and avoid overtreatment in this population, say the researchers. (Diabetes Care, July 7, 2022)



High antibiotic, opioid prescribing linked

High antibiotic prescribing is associated with high opioid prescribing at health care facilities, according to a VA study. Over-prescribing of antibiotics can lead to drug-resistant infections. Opioid over-prescribing is linked to addiction and overdose. Researchers looked at VA electronic health records prescribing data for both medical providers and dentists. They found that providers that prescribed the most antibiotics were also the highest prescribers of opioids. For medical providers, older age, region of the country, lower VA facility complexity, and rurality were linked with higher opioid prescribing. In dentists, younger age, male gender, specific region of the country, and lower number of dentists at a facility were linked to higher opioid prescribing. The results suggest that efforts targeting both medication classes may improve prescribing practices, say the researchers. (Pharmacotherapy, July 22, 2022)



Jim, below are links to all currently active pre-written E-Mails to many pieces of legislation. We ask that you go to each one, and send the pre-written E-Mails, and to also call your Reps or Senators and ask for their support on a weekly basis!

Jim you don't need to be Active Duty or a Veteran, in fact we ask all Veteran friends to also help! (Updated 09/23/22)

Please note, we've added ONE new item to the **TAKE ACTION** list.

- 1) HR 1014 - Furnish Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) to a Veteran who has a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTS)
- 2) HR 109 will establish an advisory committee on the implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record
- 3) Concurrent Receipt Legislation Introduced
- 4) Expand Concurrent Receipt
- 5) H.R. 333, Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act
- 6) H.R. 344, Support the Women Veterans TRUST Act
- 7) H.R. 914, the Dental Care for Veterans Act
- 8) Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act
- 9) S. 134/H.R. 637, the Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2021
- 10) S. 437, Take Action for Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits
- 11) S. 89, Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act of 2021
- 12) STOP TRICARE Fee Increases
- 13) Support Bills to Expand Coverage for ChampVA and TRICARE Young Adults
- 14) Veterans Economic Recovery Act Introduced
- 15) H.R. 855, the Veterans Expedited TSA Screening (VETS) Safe Travel Act
- 16) HR 1355 and S 454. These companion bills will provide health care and benefits to Veterans who were exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces at Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan.
- 17) Support Repeal of TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee
- 18) HR 1585 & S 565- Provide for the treatment of Vets who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as Radiation Exposed
- 19) Please Support S. 344, the Major Richard Star Act
- 20) Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act
- 21) S. 810 & H.R. 1972, the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
- 22) HR 109 Establish an Advisory Committee on Implementation

by the DVA of an electronic health record

- 23) HR 2372 and S 952 will Provide for Presumption of Service Connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to toxins
- 24) Please Ask you Senator to support S.952 the Warfighters Act
- 25) Support Improving VA Homelessness Program
- 26) S. 976, Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
- 27) H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act
- 28) H.R. 912, American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans Mental Health Act
- 29) S. 976, the Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
- 30) HR 2269 and S 657 cover herbicide exposure in Thailand
- 31) Bipartisan Bill Introduced to Help Military Survivors
- 32) Legislation asks for Study of Involuntary Discharges for Women
- 33) H.R. 2436, the Veterans Burn Pit Exposure Recognition Act
- 34) H.R. 958—the Protecting Moms Who Served Act
- 35) HR 2127 and S 927, the TEAM bills Veterans Exposed to Toxic Substances
- 36) Ask your Senator to Support S.1520 Military Justice Improvement Act
- 37) Ask your member and senator to support HR 2580 and S 1151 to provide for a presumption of service connected disability for certain Veterans who served in Palomares, Spain, and for other purposes
- 38) HR 855, VETS Safe Travel Act
- 39) HR 3368, the Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Island bill
- 40) H.R. 2521, Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Affairs Act of 2021
- 41) H.R. 1273, the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act
- 42) H.R. 2968, the Military and Veteran Student Loan Relief Act
- 43) H.R. 845, the VA Billing Accountability Act
- 44) Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Bill Introduced in House

- 45) HR 303 and S 1147 The Retired Pay Restoration Act
- 46) Ask Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt Reform
HR-1282
- 47) HR 1656 TREAT PTSD Act
- 48) S. 1664, the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
Processing Claims Improvement
- 49) Please Support H.R. 3452 —Veterans Preventative Health
Coverage Fairness Act
- 50) HR 2192, The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2021
- 51) HR 5026, The Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act of 2021
- 52) HR 3368, HR 5026, HR 2269, S 657 are all Toxic Exposure
Bills that need special attention and more pressure to get passed!
- 53) H.R. 4627, Veterans' Culturally Competent Care Act of 2021
- 54) S. 2172, Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing
Homelessness
- 55) H.R. 4571, the SERVICE Act of 2021
- 56) H.R. 4732, Protect Individual Unemployability Benefit for All
Disabled
- 57) S. 1937, the Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access
(DOULA) for Veterans Act of 2021
- 58) S. 2283 and H.R. 5073—the Crisis Hotline REACH for
Veterans Act
- 59) HR 852 and S 221, United States - Israel PTSD Collaborative
Research Act
- 60) Ask Congress to Preserve Arlington National Cemetery
- 61) HR 4949 and S 692, the Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal
Act of 2021
- 62) HR 2963, the VOW to Hire Heroes Extension Act of 2021
- 63) S 1970, The Clean Water for Military Families Act
- 64) Support S. 1198/H.R. 2819—the Solid Start Act of 2021
- 65) H.R. 3402/S. 976—Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
- 66) HR 3537 and S 1813, Accelerating Access to Critical
Therapies for ALS Act
- 67) S. 2386/H.R. 4575, the Veteran Peer Specialist Act

- 68) H.R. 5721—the VIPER Act
- 69) H.R. 5607, Justice for ALS Veterans Act
- 70) HR 2601 and S 1188, SFC Heath Robinson Burn Pit Transparency Act
- 71) S. 3017, Veterans Dental Care Eligibility Expansion and Enhancement Act
- 72) HR 1361 and S 444, AUTO for Veterans Act
- 73) H.R. 4880 and S. 2720, the Veterans' Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act
- 74) HR 2800, the WINGMAN Act
- 75) H.R. 5944, Veterans Administration Backlog Accountability Act of 2021
- 76) HR 3400, VA Emergency Transportation Act
- 77) HR 2992, TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act
- 78) HR 6260, the Casualty Assistance Reform Act of 2021
- 79) H.R. 5819, Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act
- 80) HR 3596, the Lawrence J. Hackett, Jr. Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Fairness Act
- 81) H.R. 2327 – to Remove Delimiting Dates for Survivors and Dependents' Educational Assistance
- 82) S. 2513/H.R. 4772, Improved VA Clothing Allowance Benefit for Disabled Veterans
- 83) S. 3293, the Post 9-11 Veterans Mental Health Care Act of 2021
- 84) HR 6402 and S 1725, will grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated
- 85) HR 6659 and S 3541, the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Acts
- 86) H.R. 6543, Restore Veterans Compensation Act
- 87) H.R. 3967, Honoring Our PACT Act Going to House Floor for a Vote
- 88) H.R. 2916/S. 1467, the VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2021
- 89) S. 3483, Justice for ALS Veterans Act
- 90) H.R. 6273 and S.3397, the VA Zero Suicide Demonstration

Project Act of 2021

- 91) HR 7050, Ernest Peltz Accrued Veterans Benefits Act
- 92) S. 3851/H.R. 7089, the Veterans Exposed to Toxic PFAS Act
- 93) S. 3854/H.R. 6823, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act
- 94) HR 4601 and S 2405, Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act
- 95) S. 3304/H.R. 5754, the Patient Advocate Tracker Act
- 96) Please Support H.R. 7369, VENTURE Act
- 97) Please support of HR 7524, the ACES Act
- 98) HR 7589, Remove Copays Act
- 99) Support Concurrent Receipt Bills
- 100) S. 3025 and H.R. 5666, the Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2021 to Improve the Claims Process for MST Survivors
- 101) Support S. 4156, the VA Workforce Improvement, Support, and Expansion (WISE)
- 102) Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options (MAMMO) for Veterans
- 103) They must pass the Honoring our PACT Act NOW
- 104) HR 7048, Protect Lifesaving Anesthesia Care for Veterans Act of 2022
- 105) HR 1476, PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act
- 106) S. 4223 and H.R. 7846, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2022
- 107) HR 7158, Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act
- 108) H.R. 3950, the Veterans Medical Legal Partnerships Act
- 109) HR 7158 and S 2852 Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act
- 110) Honoring our PACT Act
- 111) S. 4308—Veterans Marriage Recognition Act of 2022
- 112) HR 6647 will make certain improvements relating to the eligibility
- 113) S. 4580, the Lactation Spaces for Veteran Moms Act
- 114) HR 7337, Access for Veterans to Records Act
- 115) HR 8736, the GUARD Act

116) [H.R. 8398, the DRIVE Act](#)

117) [H.R. 6961, the Dignity for MST Survivors Act](#)

118) [H.R. 8686, Wounded Warrior Research Enhancement Act](#)



Toxic exposure may be linked to infertility

Toxic exposure during military service may be linked to infertility, according to an Iowa City VA study. Researchers surveyed both male and female Veterans between the ages of 20 and 45. In both men and women, those who reported environmental, chemical, and hazardous exposures during military service had increased rates of infertility. Toxic exposures linked to infertility included petrochemicals and polychlorinated biphenyls, chemicals known to cause cancer and birth defects. Veterans reporting infertility also had a higher number of total exposures. While causation between toxic exposure and infertility cannot be proven, say the researchers, more research between a possible link is needed. (American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, July 13, 2022)



Pre-surgery lung cancer care linked to better survival

Inadequate access to pre-operative care is linked to worse lung cancer outcomes, found a VA St. Louis study. Quality pre-surgery care measures included timely surgery, imaging, smoking management, and lung function testing. Researchers looked at care quality measures for nearly 10,000 VA patients undergoing surgery for non-small cell lung cancer. About 35% received all four quality measures. Those who received these measures were significantly less likely to die after surgery, compared to patients not receiving all measures. Black patients, those from poorer areas, and those who lived farther from the hospital were less likely to receive the four quality measures. The results show that VA should focus on providing more equitable pre-surgery care for Veterans with lung cancer, say the researchers. (Annals of Thoracic Surgery, June 17, 2022)



Bad cholesterol may be risk factor for Alzheimer's

High cholesterol may be involved in the development of Alzheimer's disease, according to a study by an Atlanta VA researcher and colleagues. The gene APOE is a risk factor for Alzheimer's and is also associated with high low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, also called "bad" cholesterol. Researchers followed 559 participants who developed dementia for seven years. They found that LDL cholesterol levels were associated with all measures of Alzheimer's progression. The findings suggest that LDL cholesterol is involved in Alzheimer's independent of APOE. Cholesterol could be a modifiable risk factor for Alzheimer's disease, they say. (Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry, June 30, 2022)



PTSD avoidance symptoms linked to alcohol cravings

PTSD avoidance symptoms and alcohol cravings may be linked, found a Coatesville VA Medical Center study. PTSD and alcohol or substance use disorders often occur together. Researchers interviewed 167 Veterans to see whether specific PTSD symptoms were linked to drug or alcohol misuse. Avoidance, in which patients distance themselves from things that could remind them of their trauma, was significantly linked with alcohol cravings. No specific PTSD symptoms were linked to stimulant drug cravings. Veterans with avoidance symptoms may experience alcohol cravings because they believe alcohol will ease thoughts, feelings, or reminders of trauma, according to the researchers. This relationship should be considered when treating co-occurring PTSD and alcohol use disorder, they say. (Journal of Dual Diagnosis, June 27, 2022)





Low-value health services common in VA

More than 1 in 10 Veterans enrolled in VA health care received a low-value health service, according to a study of 5.2 million Veterans. Researchers looked at health care services delivered at VA facilities or paid for through VA in a single fiscal year. They analyzed the data for low-value care, meaning services with harms or costs that outweigh the benefits. About 14% of Veterans received low-value services. This added up to a total cost of \$205.8 million. The most frequent low-value service was prostate-specific antigen testing—a blood test to detect prostate cancer—for men 75 or older. The most expensive low-value services were spinal injections for back pain and stenting for stable heart disease. The results can help guide VA’s efforts to reduce delivery and spending on low-value care, say the researchers. (JAMA Internal Medicine, July 5, 2022)



Stressful life events increase risk of Veteran suicide

Stressful life events are a major factor in suicide attempts for Veterans recently separated from the military, found a VA study. Researchers looked at data on Veterans surveyed during active duty and again after separating from the military. About 15% of those surveyed were deemed high-risk for suicide attempts. Those at high risk of suicide were significantly more likely to experience post-separation stressful life events. These events included housing instability, legal problems, financial strain, and relationship problems. The link between stressful life events and actual suicide attempts was much stronger in the high-risk group, compared with those at lower risk for suicide. It might be possible to prevent some Veteran suicides by targeting interventions for common stressful life events, according to the researchers. (Psychological Medicine, May 27, 2022)



Sickle cell trait linked to increase risk of COVID-19 death

Sickle cell trait is linked to an increased risk of death from COVID-19, found a VA Million Veteran Program study. People with sickle cell trait have one sickle cell gene and one normal gene. Those with the trait usually do not have symptoms of sickle cell disease—a blood disorder primarily affecting people of African descent. Researchers studied MVP data of nearly 3,000 people with sickle cell trait, 13% of whom contracted COVID-19. They compared them to nearly 130,000 people without sickle cell trait, 10% of whom had COVID-19. Those with sickle cell trait had higher odds of death from COVID-19. The sickle cell group also had increased rates of acute kidney failure. About 21% of COVID-19 deaths were due to acute kidney failure for patients with sickle cell trait. The results strongly support including sickle cell trait as a risk factor for worse COVID-19 outcomes, say the researchers. (JAMA Internal Medicine, June 27, 2022)



Barriers to positive airway pressure use

San Francisco VA researchers identified physical and psychological barriers to positive airway pressure use. Positive airway pressure (PAP) is an effective treatment for sleep apnea, but many patients have trouble tolerating it. Researchers interviewed 30 Veterans who did not use their PAP machines every day. The Veterans described physical and psychological barriers to use at about the same rate. The most common physical barriers were mask leaks and dry throat and nose. Psychological barriers included anxiety, claustrophobia, and worsening insomnia. Health care providers most often offered solutions for physical barriers. Solutions for psychological barriers were rarely proposed. The researchers recommend that patients receive individualized assessment to address both physical and psychological barriers to PAP use. (Translational Behavioral Medicine, May 30, 2022)



SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

TALK:

- Killing themselves
- Feeling hopeless
- Having no reason to live
- Being a burden to others
- Feeling trapped
- Unbearable pain



BEHAVIOR:

- Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- Looking for a way to end their lives
- Withdrawing from activities
- Isolating from people
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Visiting or calling people to say goodbye
- Giving away possessions
- Aggression
- Fatigue

MOOD:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Loss of interest
- Irritability
- Humiliation/Shame
- Agitation/Anger
- Relief/Sudden Improvement



Poor diabetes control linked to weakened bones

Poor glycemic control is linked to bone weakness in men with diabetes, according to a study by Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center researchers and colleagues. The study assessed bone quality and strength in 169 men. Those with A1C—a measure of sugar levels in the blood—above 7% had higher trabecular separation and lower trabecular number than those with lower A1C scores. Trabecular bone tissue acts like a network of support beams that give bones their structure. Participants with high A1C also had worse measures of bone strength. They further had significantly lower bone turnover markers. Bone turnover, in which the body resorbs old bone tissue and produces new bone, helps the body maintain bone strength and health. A1C above 7% appears to be a threshold for bone impairment in men with diabetes, according to the researchers. (Calcified Tissue International, June 4, 2022)



Airborne virus linked to hospital COVID-19 spread

Hospital COVID-19 infection may result from airborne virus particles introduced by employees and patients in common hospital areas, according to a study by VA Boston researchers and colleagues. The researchers studied the genome sequence of viruses from infected nurses and patients during a hospital COVID-19 outbreak. They compared these to virus particles from air samples. They learned that viruses found in nurses and patients were genetically identical to virus particles in the air. The findings suggest that very small, aerosolized virus particles can lead to COVID-19 spread in hospitals, according to the researchers. Isolating infected health care providers and improving ventilation and masking could help decrease the spread, they say. (JAMA Network Open, June 8, 2022)



New treatment for antibiotic-resistant urinary tract infections

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center researchers and colleagues developed a treatment to combat urinary tract infections. Urinary tract infections from catheters affect one million patients per year in the United States. High rates of drug resistance make treating these infections difficult. The researchers created a cocktail containing phages, viruses that infect bacteria, to combat E. coli bacteria. The cocktail decreased cell viability of E. coli biofilms (layers of bacteria) isolated from the urine of spinal cord injury patients by 80%. Using antibiotics with the phage cocktail prevented or decreased bacteria infections in the urine of patients using catheters. This cocktail has high potential to treat antibiotic-resistant, catheter-associated urinary tract infections, say the researchers. (Frontiers in Microbiology, May 10, 2022)



Palliative care reduces suicide risk

Palliative care can help prevent suicide in Veterans at high risk for death from other causes, according to a Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center study. Palliative care refers to care aiming to improve quality of life and reduce symptom burden in patients with complex and life-shortening conditions. Researchers looked at VA data on more than 580,000 patients who had a high risk of death within a year. A high percentage of Veterans who died by suicide were diagnosed with chronic pulmonary disease, as well as mental health and substance use conditions. One palliative care consultation in the 90 days before death decreased the odds of suicide by 71%. Two or more consultations lowered the risk of suicide by 78%. The results highlight the importance of palliative care in preventing suicide for patients with serious illness, say the researchers. (Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, April 28, 2022)



**Non-heterosexual Veterans at higher risk of
disordered eating**

Non-heterosexual Veterans are more likely than heterosexual Veterans to have disordered eating, found a study by VA Boston researchers. The study surveyed over 800 female and over 500 male post-9/11 Veterans. Disordered eating—such as bulimia and binge eating disorder—was prevalent across gender and sexual orientation. Women identifying as bisexual and men identifying as gay had higher rates of disordered eating, compared to heterosexual Veterans. Experiencing discrimination in the military was linked to disordered eating. More research is needed on the causes of this disparity and the role of discrimination in disordered eating, according to the researchers. (International Journal of Eating Disorders, April 2022)



Exercise therapy lowers adverse outcomes from chronic pain

Exercise therapy lowers adverse outcomes in Veterans with chronic pain, found a VA study. Exercise therapy includes physical procedures such as stretching, strength training, and gait training. Researchers looked at data for nearly 94,000 soldiers with chronic pain who enrolled in VA health care after leaving the army. Those who attended at least eight sessions of exercise therapy for their pain while in the military had significantly lower risk of alcohol and drug disorders, suicidal thoughts, and death compared to those not given exercise therapy. This trend was especially true for those prescribed opioids before starting exercise therapy. The results suggest that exercise therapy should be considered as a non-drug treatment for chronic pain, according to the researchers. (Military Medicine, March 21, 2022)



Guilt reduction therapy effective treatment for PTSD

Therapy aimed at addressing guilt is an effective way to reduce posttraumatic symptoms and distress, found a VA study. Guilt is common after a traumatic experience and can even persist after PTSD treatment. Researchers compared two psychotherapies for reducing guilt in Veterans with guilt related to traumatic events during deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan. Trauma-informed guilt reduction helps patients accurately appraise their role in the trauma and re-engage with their values. Supportive care therapy focuses on understanding and support, without necessarily directly addressing guilt. While both therapies decreased guilt, the decrease was greater with the guilt-specific treatment. The guilt reduction method also was more effective at reducing PTSD and depression symptoms. Patients receiving trauma-informed guilt reduction had a higher likelihood of PTSD treatment response, loss of PTSD diagnosis, and meaningful change in depression. The results show that targeting a prominent symptom like guilt can be an effective way to reduce PTSD and distress, say the researchers. (Depression and Anxiety, April 2022)



Opioid prescribing decreased for Veterans in community living centers

Opioid prescribing decreased in recent years for Veterans with dementia in community living centers, found a study by VA Finger Lakes researchers and colleagues. The study included data from three time periods: 2012–2013, 2014–2015, and 2017–2018. More than 12,000 older Veterans living in community living centers were included. Opioid administration decreased after the publication of opioid safety guidelines for Veterans with dementia. Opioid prescribing was 26% lower in the second time period, and 34% lower in the third period. High-dose and long-term opioid use decreased more than 40% from the first time period. Prescriptions of both opioids and benzodiazepines (a dangerous combination) were 11% lower in the second period and 34% lower in the third period. Veterans with dementia and serious mental illness were less likely to be given opioids than those without mental illness. The results suggest that new guidelines reduced opioid use in community living centers, according to the researchers. More study is needed on how these opioid reductions affected health outcomes, they say. (Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, April 9, 2022)



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**Genetic links between severe COVID-19 and other
diseases**

A VA Million Veteran Program study identified genetic links between COVID-19 severity and certain serious medical conditions. Researchers analyzed genetic and health record data on more than 650,000 Veterans who volunteered for MVP. They compared gene variations previously found to be linked to severe COVID-19 risk with gene variants connected to other conditions. The analysis showed that gene variants linked to severe COVID-19 are also linked to medical conditions known to be COVID-19 risk factors. The strongest links were found for venous embolism and thrombosis, as well as type 2 diabetes and ischemic heart disease. The study also showed genetic links between severe COVID-19 and neutropenia—low white blood cell count—in Veterans of African and Hispanic ancestry. This link was not seen in Veterans of European ancestry. Conversely, gene variants associated with severe COVID-19 were associated with reduced risk of immune-related conditions such as lupus and rheumatoid arthritis. The findings shed light on genetic risk for COVID-19 and could lead to paths for new treatments, say the researchers. (PLOS Genetics, April 28, 2022)



Dog ownership linked to physical exercise in older adults

Dog ownership is linked to positive physical health behavior in older adults, found a study by VA researchers. The study assessed multiple health outcomes in adults 65 and older. Dog owners were more likely than those without pets to walk for exercise. They also reported better subjective health. Cat owners did not differ from non-pet owners in self-reported health or walking. The researchers did not find a relationship between pet ownership and depression symptoms. White participants were more likely than Black participants to own pets. Sex, race, and geographic location did not affect the findings. The results show that dog ownership may lead to healthy behavior, but should not be viewed as a simple solution for depression, say the researchers. (International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, May 6, 2022)



Factors linked to suicidal behavior remission

VA researchers and colleagues identified three factors linked to remission from suicidal thoughts and actions in Veterans. Researchers analyzed a broad range of social, demographic, and health data from a large survey of U.S. Veterans. They found that purpose in life, dispositional gratitude, and conscientiousness were linked to remission from suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Dispositional gratitude refers to a tendency to appreciate the positive aspects of life. Conscientiousness means being goal-oriented and attentive to details. All three factors were linked to remission even after accounting for other risk and protective variables. These three elements could be targets for interventions to help prevent Veteran suicides, according to the researchers. (Journal of Psychiatric Research, May 2022)



Alcohol use disorder prevalent among Veterans

Alcohol use disorder is prevalent among Veterans, according to a study by VA San Diego researchers. The study included more than 4,000 Veterans. About 41% of participants reported signs of alcohol use disorder in their lifetime, with 11% having the condition within the last year. Veterans with alcohol use disorder had higher rates of psychiatric disorders and suicidal behavior, compared with those without the disorder. Rates of these conditions increased with higher alcohol use disorder severity. Alcohol use disorder was linked to being younger, male, white, unmarried, retired, and having adverse childhood experiences and traumas. The results underscore the need for comprehensive alcohol use screening for Veterans, say the researchers. (Drug and Alcohol Dependence, Feb. 1, 2022)



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Genetic testing could protect against adverse drug interactions

Genetic testing could help avoid adverse drug interactions for patients taking multiple medications, found a study by VA Puget Sound researchers. In a pilot study, researchers tested the genomes of 53 Veterans to predict how they would respond to specific medications. All participants were taking multiple medications for psychiatric conditions. Their health care providers were given the results of the genetic tests. For 83% of participants, providers changed their original medication plan based on the genetic results. Over 12 weeks of treatment, patients saw improvements in depression and mental health quality of life. Adverse drug effects were unchanged or improved over time with genetic testing, compared with original medication plans. The results show that genetic testing could benefit patients taking multiple medications, say the researchers. (Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, Jan. 24, 2022)



Melanoma a higher risk for older veterans

A new study finds that veterans are more likely to have advanced melanoma, where the melanoma spreads to other parts of the body, compared to the general population. Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer and the fourth most common cancer among veterans.

This research may be timely for Armed Forces Day (Saturday, May 21) coverage.

Published in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (JAAD), the peer-reviewed study of more than 15,000 veterans finds:

Older veterans face increased rates of melanoma. The majority of veterans with melanoma are 65 and older, male, non-Hispanic white, and live in rural areas.

Overall, veterans are older at their diagnosis compared to the general population, and their melanoma is often more advanced due to a later diagnosis.

Rebecca I. Hartman, MD, MPH, one of the authors of the study is an Associate Chief of Dermatology, VA Boston Healthcare System and Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School.



- 1) Philips Respironics Recalls Certain BiPAP Machines for Plastic Issue that May Expose Patients to Certain Chemicals of Concern
- 2) FDA Roundup: September 23, 2022



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