

Partnerships:

1. Coordinate with DoD through the Deployment Health Working Group (DHWG) and establish the appropriate mechanisms (functional, technical and legal) to transfer data to the VA related to environmental exposures, including environmental monitoring results, exposure-related documentation, and biomonitoring results.
2. Institutionalize processes per a DoD/VA memorandum of understanding or other appropriate document.
3. Facilitate timely VA notification by DoD of potential environmental exposures.
4. Require by-name data transfer of possibly exposed personnel, if available.
5. Follow-up potential environmental exposures to identify health-related sequelae.
6. Provide regular progress reports to the VA/DoD Health Executive Council
 - Work closely with the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center and the DoD Deployment Health Research Center to ensure VA and DoD are effectively coordinating their respective exposure-related epidemiological studies to enable identification of medical conditions manifesting themselves after separation from service.
 - Establish partnerships with the DoD-VA Interagency Program Office and VA and DoD CIO organizations to expedite development of data capture into the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record effort, to include occupational and environmental monitoring data (including data on chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear exposures) and related exposure data.
 - Develop proposals for a joint effort between VA and DoD to create a technological framework and to develop the systems necessary to meet the requirements of Presidential Review Directive-5 to create individual longitudinal exposure records.
 - Develop an agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services and provide resources to establish a framework for sharing monitoring and exposure-related data into the National Health Information Network.

Benefits:

1. Clarify VA implementing criteria for adjudicating disability claims based on Gulf War undiagnosed illnesses and medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses, as defined by law.
2. Investigate the feasibility of including Gulf War undiagnosed illnesses and medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses in VA's National Quality Assurance Program.
3. Enhance training on Gulf War disability benefits, focused on disability claims resulting from exposure to a variety of environmental hazards during military service.

Clinician Education and Training:

1. Develop accessible, flexible and user friendly Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses training to educate primary care physicians, compensation and pension examiners,