

## Program Takes Mystery Out of Understanding Presumptive Conditions

In the weeks ahead, you will be learning more about a Nevada Department of Veteran Services' (NDVS) initiative, *Veterans Healthcare Champions*. This new public awareness campaign is designed to educate veterans and healthcare providers in Nevada about presumptive conditions and recognize those healthcare providers participating in the effort.

Many may not know that service in the U.S. military could result in exposure to a range of chemical, physical, and environmental hazards that could impact one's long term health. A presumed condition is an illness, disease or condition the VA recognizes as being directly related to U.S. military service. The list of presumptive conditions is long. So are the potential exposures. For additional information about Presumptive Conditions go to:

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/presumption.pdf>

There is a free, easy-to-use mobile app to help understand one's exposure risk and potential health impacts. It is a tool for both veterans and healthcare providers. The app is called, *VA Health Exposure Ed*. The VA cautions the app is "not a substitute for clinical judgement," but it allows a user to search for possible exposures in three different ways: exposure by name, by date and location of military service and by specific military conflict.

It also assists in providing information about VA programs and benefits available to veterans facing health conditions or risks, due to exposure or potential exposure to identified hazards. For more information and to download the Exposure Ed app go to: <https://mobile.va.gov/app/exposure-ed>

It's estimated that more than 60% of veterans in Nevada are not connected to the VA for healthcare or other benefits and may not be aware of potential compensation related to their military service. As a healthcare provider, you can help direct these individuals to the NDVS website at where they can learn more from a Veteran's Service Officer at: <https://Veterans.nv.gov/ask-a-vso>

You can make a difference and it is easy. **ASK** if your patient served in the U.S. Military and then **REFER** them to the NDVS website at [www.veterans.nv.gov](http://www.veterans.nv.gov). The benefits, services and compensation they have earned, could change the quality of their life and those of their family members!