

VA Resources for Veteran Bladder Cancer Caregivers

Your notes are evidence. Every symptom you track – urgency, pain, accidents – can support a VA disability rating, a PCAFC stipend application, and access to Community Care. Start here.

BUILD YOUR CLAIM

PACT ACT – 2025 UPDATE

Bladder Cancer Is Now a Presumptive Condition

- Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, or PFAS no longer need to prove a direct link – VA presumes the connection.
- Previously denied? You can refile. The 2025 rule change opened the door.
- Exposures covered: burn pits (post-9/11), Agent Orange (Vietnam), Camp Lejeune water.

File or refile: Ebnefits • va.gov/disability • 1-800-827-1000

DISABILITY RATING

Keeping Your Rating After Treatment Ends

- The initial 100% rating is tied to active treatment- VA re-evaluates when treatment ends.
- Your caregiver lay statement matters. Describe their worst days: nighttime trips, pad use, pain, isolation, inability to work.
- At every C&P exam: describe your worst days, not your average ones.

Lay statement guide: va.gov/decision-reviews

PCAFC STIPEND

You May Qualify for a Monthly Caregiver Stipend

- PCAFC provides a monthly stipend, health insurance (if uninsured), mental health services, and up to 30 days of respite per year.
- Expanded in 2022 to ALL service eras – not just post-9/11.
- Strong applications include a physician statement AND a written description of daily caregiving tasks.

Apply: caregiver.va.gov • 1-855-260-3274

GET SUPPORT NOW

COMMUNITY CARE

See a Specialist Outside the VA

- If VA wait times exceed 20 days or the nearest VA is 30+ miles away, you can request care from a non-VA provider.
- Ask for a referral at every appointment – don't wait for VA to offer it.
- Track your authorization number and expiration.

Request a referral: va.gov/communitycare • 1-866-606-8198 • dial 211

CAREGIVER SUPPORT LINE

A Real Person Who Can Help You Navigate

- Free, confidential support for VA caregivers: PCAFC questions, appeals, local resources, mental health referrals.
- Ask for your assigned Caregiver Support Coordinator – every VA has one.
- Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-10pm ET. Sat 8am-5pm ET.

Call or chat: 1-855-260-3274 • caregiver.va.gov • hiddenheros.org

RESPITE CARE

You Are Allowed to Rest

- PCAFC caregivers receive up to 30 days of respite per year- in-home aide, adult day programs, or short VA stays.
- Not enrolled yet? Ask your Caregiver Support Coordinator about interim options.
- Elizabeth Dole Foundation: eldolefoundation.org. ARCH Respite Network: archrespitene.org

Find respite near you: archrespitene.org • caregiveraction.org • hiddenheros.org

QUICK REFERENCE

VA Claims & Benefits
va.gov/disability
800-827-1000

PCAFC/Caregiver Support
caregiver.va.gov
855-260-3274

Community Care
va.gov/communitycare
866-606-8198

CAN Caregiver Resources
caregiveraction.org
855-227-3640

Hidden Heros
hiddenheros.org
info@elizabethdolefoundation.org