

Gulf War Related Illnesses and Afghanistan/Kazakhstan Region

VA presumes certain medically unexplained illnesses are related to Persian Gulf War service or service in Afghanistan/Kazakhstan without regard to cause. There are called 'presumptives'.

The VA has extended the presumptive period to December 31, 2026. This extension is pretty regular at 5 year intervals but not guaranteed.

You can get benefits for your illness or condition if both of these descriptions are true for you and you have one of the presumptive diseases listed below.

Both of these must be true. Your illness or condition:

- Caused you to be ill for at least 6 months, and
- Resulted in a disability rating of 10% or more
- You were in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations
- And you have one of these presumptive diseases:

- Functional gastrointestinal disorders (Diagnosed IBS)
- Diagnosed Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- Diagnosed Fibromyalgia

Also included are undiagnosed illnesses with symptoms that may include but are not limited to abnormal weight loss, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders and sleep disturbances.

VA presumes the following infectious diseases are related to military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War August 2, 1990 to present and in Afghanistan on or after September 19, 2001:

If your illness or condition was diagnosed within one year of your date of separation you can get disability benefits for your illness or condition if you have a disability rating of 10% or more and you have one of these presumptive diseases:

- Brucellosis
- Campylobacter jejuni
- Coxiella burnetii (Q fever)
- Nontyphoid salmonella
- Shigella
- West Nile virus
- Malaria (or sooner in some cases)

If your illness or condition was diagnosed at any time after your date of separation you can get disability benefits for your illness or condition if you have a disability rating of 10% or more and you have one of these presumptive diseases:

- Mycobacterium tuberculosis
- Visceral leishmaniasis

If you in the Southwest Asia region or Afghanistan/Kazakhstan region and were diagnosed with any of the following within 10 years of a qualifying period of service or within 10 years after discharge from active duty. These do not require the 10% minimum.:

- Rhinitis
- Sinusitis
- Asthma

What's included in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations?

- Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia
- The neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia
- Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)
- Oman
- The Gulf of Aden and the Gulf of Oman
- The waters of the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, and the Red Sea
- The airspace above these locations

Contact your VSO, claims agent or attorney for more information.