

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: September 14, 2022

From: Deputy Under Secretary for Health (10A)

Subj: Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Letter of Instruction Regarding Education for Toxic Exposure Screening of Environmental Hazards for VHA Clinicians including Physicians, Registered Nurses, Advanced Practice Nurses, Psychologists and Social Workers

To: Veterans Integrated Service Network Directors (10N1-23)
VHA Medical Center Directors (00)

1. The purpose of this memo is to notify field staff of a mandatory training requirement for PACT Act toxic exposure screening. The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act expands VA care and benefits for Veterans with exposure-related conditions. Section 603 requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to incorporate a screening to help determine potential toxic exposures by November 8, 2022. While we recognize the need to overall reduce training requirements as part of our REBOOT efforts, this training is viewed as critical to ensure we optimally serve Veterans with health care needs related to toxic exposures.
2. To ensure VA staff have the education and training needed to serve Veterans with toxic exposure concerns, I am directing all current VHA Title 38 and Title 38 Hybrid clinical staff who may see or screen Veterans for toxic exposure concerns to include Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurses (RN/LV/LPN) Pharmacists, Social Workers, Dietitians, Psychologists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Dentists, Podiatrists, Optometrists, Chiropractors, Acupuncturists and Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP), as a one-time requirement, the module titled: **“Toxic Exposure Screening (TES) with Veterans.”**
3. This memorandum further directs new VHA Title 38 and Title 38 Hybrid clinical staff who may see or screen Veterans with toxic exposure concerns to include Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurses (RN/LV/LPN) Pharmacists, Social Workers, Dietitians, Psychologists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Dentists, Podiatrists, Optometrists, Chiropractors Acupuncturists and Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP) hired after November 8, 2022, also complete, as a one-time requirement, the module titled: **“Toxic Exposure Screening (TES) with Veterans”** within 90 days of hire.

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4. Please note, the requirements of this memo are separate and distinct from WRIISC MOD 1-Assessing Deployment Related Environmental Exposures memo dated August 30, 2022, which remains mandatory.
5. For further questions, please contact VHA11PCPrimaryCareAction@va.gov

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