



# CARING FOR OUR VETERANS



## Cancer & Veteran's Administration Fact Sheet

In the United States, men and women with cancer, including Veterans, can be treated with exceptional care close to home.

### Men's Prostate Cancer

- ◆ **2,850,139** men are estimated to be living with prostate cancer in the United States
- ◆ **180,000** is the estimated number of new prostate cancer cases that will be diagnosed in 2016
- ◆ **14%** of men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point during their lifetime
- ◆ **26,120** prostate cancer deaths were estimated in the US in 2016
- ◆ Prostate cancer is the **second leading cause of cancer death** for American men after lung cancer
- ◆ **22 million** Veterans are living in the United States
- ◆ **10,000** Veterans are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year
- ◆ **Veterans** exposed to **Agent Orange** are **50% more likely to develop prostate cancer** than unexposed veterans
- ◆ **Annual PSA screenings are covered by Insurers** including private payers, Medicare, and the Veteran's Administration at the patient's request
- ◆ **PSA screening can identify prostate cancer** when it is in the low to intermediate risk categories **when it can be treated curatively**

### Women's Breast Cancer

- ◆ **Breast cancer** is the **#2 cause of cancer death** in women, but localized breast cancer has a **99% survival rate** if detected early.
- ◆ There are over **2 million** women Veterans living in the United States.
- ◆ Among women Veterans, **breast cancer was the most commonly diagnosed**, account for about 30% of female cancers<sup>1</sup>.
- ◆ **Screenings save lives** and VA provides mammograms to all Veterans.
- ◆ According to a 2009 study<sup>2</sup>, military women are **20%-40% more likely** to be diagnosed with **breast cancer** than other women in the same age groups.
- ◆ In line with national guidelines, VA encourages all women between ages 50-75 to get **mammograms every two years**.

Statistics from National Institute of Health, SEER Database and the VA website: [http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile\\_of\\_unique\\_Veteran\\_Users.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile_of_unique_Veteran_Users.pdf) and the VA/DOD Healthcare Professional Publication: <http://www.usmedicine.com/agencies/department-of-veterans-affairs/new-study-prostate-cancer-diagnosed-five-years-earlier-in-vietnam-era-veterans-exposed-to-agent-orange/>

<sup>1</sup>: Zullig LL, Jackson GL, Dorn RA, et al. Cancer Incidence among Patients of the United States Veterans Affairs (VA) Healthcare System. *Military Medicine*. 2012; 177(6):693-701.  
<sup>2</sup>: Cancer incidence in the U.S. military population: Comparison with rates from the SEER Program  
McGlynn K.A., Zhu K., Devesa S.S., Wu H., Zahm S.H., Jatoi I., Anderson W.F., (...) Potter J.F. (2009) *Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers and Prevention*, 18 (6), pp. 1740-1745.



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