



Do you have a patient with a cancer diagnosis who has served in the Australian Defence Force (ADF)?

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) may cover the cost of their treatment, even if the cancer is unrelated to their service.

If you're a GP or specialist here's how you can help.

1. Check if your patient's Veteran Card covers their cancer treatment

Veterans are eligible for clinically necessary DVA funded cancer treatment if they have either a:

- Veteran Gold Card; or
- Veteran White Card that covers cancer either as an accepted service-related condition or under non-liability health care (NLHC) arrangements.

To check if your patient's Veteran White Card covers cancer:

- Check under the digital version of their Veteran White Card, found on their MyService account on their device, for either:
 - A cancer condition relating to their service (see example 1)
- Or
 - cancer treatment under non-liability health care (see example 2)

EXAMPLE 1

Veteran Card

File Number XXXXXXXX
Expiry date Sept 2028
Card type White

[Order replacement](#)



Conditions listed

The following conditions are listed on this card:

All mental health conditions - treatment only
Approved under VEA - 20 May 2019

Cancer of the tongue
Approved under VEA - 20 October 2018

EXAMPLE 2

Veteran Card

File Number XXXXXXXX
Expiry date Sept 2028
Card type White

[Order replacement](#)



Conditions listed

The following conditions are listed on this card:

All mental health conditions - treatment only
Approved under VEA - 20 May 2018

Non-liability health care - cancer treatment
Approved under VEA - 20 October 2018

Alternatively, you can find out if their treatment is covered by contacting DVA's Health Provider Line on 1800 550 457 (option 3, option 1)

If a veteran does not have cancer covered already:

2. Fill out the provider component of our D9215 form with the diagnosis and send to DVA

Veterans can submit the following D9215 form to request assessment for non-liability health care (NLHC) for cancer dva.gov.au/about-us/dva-forms/application-health-care-cancer-malignant-neoplasm-or-tuberculosis.

Eligibility for NLHC for cancer depends on the nature of the veteran's service. Patients can check if they may meet our criteria on our website: <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/injury-or-health-treatments/free-treatment-cancer-and-pulmonary#who-can-receive-it>.

You will need to complete the provider component of their D9215 application form and confirm the diagnosis with your signature.

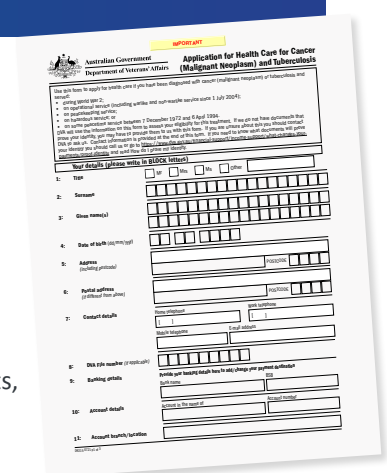
The form then needs to be sent to DVA by yourself, your clinic or your veteran patient.

The completed form can be emailed to nlhc@dva.gov.au or mailed to:

Department of Veterans' Affairs
GPO Box 9998
Brisbane QLD 4001

If a veteran is not eligible for treatment under NLHC arrangements, they can still submit a claim to see if DVA will accept their cancer as relating to their service.

For more information your patient can visit: dva.gov.au/financial-support/compensation-claims/making-claim-service-related-condition.





If the veteran's cancer treatment is covered:

3. Check if the type of cancer treatment you're providing, or referring the veteran for treatment of, is covered

Cancer (malignant neoplasm) treatment funded under NLHC may include:

- GP and other specialist care
- clinically necessary investigations and imaging (if the results come back confirming cancer)
- clinically necessary medications, chemotherapy, radiation therapy or surgery

DVA will cover all necessary treatment that is listed on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), the Repatriation Medical Fee Schedule (RMFS), the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) or Repatriation PBS (RPBS). However, **you will need to apply for prior approval for non-listed treatment.**

DVA may consider funding treatment of sequelae that have been caused by cancer treatment in certain circumstances, with a prior approval application.

For more information on when and how to seek prior approval visit: dva.gov.au/providers/notes-fee-schedules-and-guidelines/when-we-must-approve-care

For more information on NLHC for cancer treatment visit: <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/providers/health-programs-and-services-our-clients/non-liability-health-care-nlhc/cover>

4. Consider mental health care for your patient

A cancer diagnosis can bring significant life changes and may impact your patient's mental health.

DVA offers fully funded treatment of mental health conditions through NLHC (mental health) to all veterans who have completed one day of full time service in the ADF, and some reservists. The mental health condition/s do not need to be related to ADF service, and a claim for compensation is not required. This treatment can be accessed for as long as it is needed, and at no cost to the veteran.

For more information on NLHC (mental health) visit: dva.gov.au/providers/health-programs-and-services-our-clients/non-liability-health-care-nlhc/cover-mental

For immediate support, veterans can contact **Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling**. Open Arms is a nationally accredited mental health service that provides free 24-hour clinically based counselling, and support. Any veteran with

at least one day of continuous full-time service can access support through Open Arms, as can their immediate family.

Open Arms services include:

- counselling for individuals, couples and families;
- case management for clients with more complex needs;
- group programs to develop skills and enhance support;
- lived experience peer support; after-hours triage and support; suicide prevention and mental health literacy training; and
- information, education and self-help resources.

General practitioners can refer their veteran patient to Open Arms by calling: 1800 011 046

Alternatively, to access Open Arms support veterans and their families can call: 1800 011 046 or visit openarms.gov.au

5. Seek payment for your service

You can claim for payment using DVA item numbers if the cancer treatment you provided is covered on their card, or your patient's application for NLHC has been approved by DVA and they are waiting for either:

- their physical card to arrive; or
- the condition to be added to their digital Veteran Card on MyService.

They just need to show the healthcare provider their NLHC acceptance letter.

To view DVA's fee schedules for GPs and specialists visit: dva.gov.au/providers/notes-fee-schedules-and-guidelines/fee-schedules/fee-schedules-gps-and-specialists