



Gulf War Illness

Information Fact Sheet

What is Gulf War Illness?

Gulf War Illness, also known as Gulf War Syndrome is a chronic condition affecting some Veterans of the Persian Gulf War. It is characterized by a cluster of chronic symptoms that impact multiple body systems when these conditions are not better explained by another identifiable condition.

Commonly associated conditions and symptoms (otherwise unexplained)

- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Chronic headaches and migraines
- Mood and Cognitive Disorders
- Chronic musculoskeletal pain
- Fibromyalgia
- Skin Symptoms
- Respiratory symptoms

Formal recognition of Gulf War Illness

As of 1 April 2026, [Gulf War Illness medical codes](#) are officially recognized in Canada by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI).

What this means for Veterans

- A diagnosis of Gulf War Illness can be used to support a disability benefit application
- Streamlined processing of related applications
- Veterans are encouraged to come forward if their condition was not previously recognized

How to apply

Veterans can apply for disability benefits:

- Through [My VAC Account](#)
- By mail
- In person at VAC offices, Transition Centers, or Service Canada