

**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

**Memorandum**

Date: September 1, 2022

From: Lisa Pape, Senior Advisor Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Health

Subj: Request for OMB review and consideration of emergency PRA clearance for PACT Act Section 603 Toxic Exposure Screening

To: Dominic J. Mancini  
Deputy Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA)

Cc: VA Desk Officer, Matthew S. Eliseo  
Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

The Honoring our PACT Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-168) requires VA to incorporate a screening to help determine potential toxic exposures during active military, naval, air, or space service as part of a health care screening. Section 603 of PACT Act imposes a Congressionally mandated timeline to begin screening all Veterans enrolled in VHA health care within 90 days of enactment, therefore full implementation across all VHA facilities must be completed by November 8, 2022.

VA will use several different methods of gathering information from Veterans through the toxic exposure screening, including VHA staff administering the screening during a health care appointment, VHA staff administering at other Veteran touch point events (e.g., screening blitz event), and Veterans completing the screening independently before being contacted by VHA staff for follow up. Veterans have the option of declining the toxic exposure screening.

VA will test the toxic exposure screening, in the form of a clinical reminder, during a pilot at seven (7) sites in the field from September 6-16. The pilot screening will be performed by VHA staff in the following clinic areas:

- Primary Care and Women's Health
- Mental Health
- Specialty Care
- Emergency Medicine
- Surgery
- Geriatrics and Extended Care (to include Home Based Primary Care program)
- Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs
- Other clinical areas of pilot sites can participate on a voluntary basis
- Medical Support Assistants will only be screening during dedicated time, outside of normal duties

An emergency Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) clearance is requested because VA must begin screening all enrolled Veterans no later than November 8, 2022. The use of regular OMB clearance procedures will not allow for VA to carry out the requirements of the law by November 8, 2022. OMB PRA approval is respectfully requested by September 6, 2022.

Questions may be addressed to Lindsay DeRossett via phone at (681) 279-5742 or via email at [Lindsay.DeRossett@va.gov](mailto:Lindsay.DeRossett@va.gov).

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Pape".

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**Lisa Pape, Senior Advisor Office of Deputy Under Secretary for Health  
Veterans Health Administration**