



Types of Medical Opinion Requests

- Routine requests:
 - Are sent to the facility closest to the Veteran's location
 - Involve only those conditions that are listed as having limited or suggestive evidence of association
 - Also have documentation of reasonable time period for significant exposure to occur (3 months)
- Advisory Opinion requests:
 - All other conditions, especially if medical evidence is provided by the Veteran
 - The 14 conditions listed by NRC, if exposure evidence is not adequate



Advisory Opinions

Advisory Opinions are usually requested by a Veterans Service Center Manager when:

- **The question at hand is too complex or unusual to be resolved locally**
- Involves a conflict in existing regulation or policy
- Has a potential impact to the broader VA, beyond the particular case at hand
- May affect existing policy issues relating to a larger group of Veterans
- Camp Lejeune Advisory Medical Opinions fall into this category



Benefits of Using Advisory Opinions

- The Medical Advisory Opinion Process is beneficial to both the VARO and the examiner and ultimately beneficial to the claimant
- It reduces the time that an answer is given to the Veterans, since the request for an opinion does not get sent from one provider to another looking for someone with expertise.
- DMA has established a list of Subject Matter Experts uniquely qualified to provide these advisory opinions
 - Board certified/Board Eligible in Occupational/ Environmental Medicine
 - Seasoned Disability Evaluators
 - Associated with Academic Institutions (most)
- There is an established bibliography maintained to support the development of these opinions