

VHA and the GO₂ Foundation for Lung Cancer (GO₂)

Promoting Veteran awareness of Lung Cancer

Partnership Information

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) partnered with the GO₂ Foundation for Lung Cancer (GO₂) to support Veterans with lung cancer, promote early detection and treatment, and to increase Veteran referrals to VA for additional screening, services, and benefits.

The partnership will also allow VHA and GO₂ to share information and resources that improve care for unique Veteran-related health factors, which includes an elevated risk for lung cancer due to service-connected activities.

- VA diagnoses 7,700 Veterans with lung cancer each year.
- An estimated 900,000 Veterans remain at risk of developing lung cancer due to age, a history of smoking, and environmental exposures during or after military service.
- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States.
- GO₂ has more than 30 years of experience delivering information and support to the 10 million individuals at risk and living with lung cancer in the U.S.
- There are nearly 800 **Screening Centers of Excellence** across the country that specialize in high-quality lung cancer screening practices.



Lung Cancer Support for All Veterans

There is a long history of smoking and other tobacco use in the military. Many Veterans used tobacco while they served, particularly during deployment. Now seven out of every 10 Veterans who smoke would like to quit — for both the physical benefits and their mental health.

VHA and GO₂ are collaborating to provide essential services for Veterans to understand the dangers of lung cancer and provide physical and emotional support for those living with the disease. Together, they are working to deliver additional resources for screening implementation, professional development training, patient education campaigns, and potential research programs. The partnership also enables GO₂ to refer Veterans seeking treatment to VA for questions about eligibility or applying for VA benefits and services.



VA and GO₂ Initiatives for Veterans

- The VA Partnership to increase Access to Lung Screenings (**VA-PALS**) is a collaboration between VA and GO₂ to share best practices and raise awareness about the importance of lung cancer screening.
- PsychArmor's **S-A-V-E training** is being shared with GO₂ screening center staff to increase knowledge about Veteran-specific concerns, health care needs, and suicide prevention efforts.
- **GO₂ webinars and educational materials** are available to VHA staff as an additional resource for learning about lung cancer.
- **VA research** is advancing the understanding, prevention, and treatment of numerous respiratory illnesses, ranging from the common cold and pneumonia to major public health threats such as tuberculosis and lung cancer.

VA Resources

- VA offers **lung cancer screening** for Veterans. Veterans should talk with their VA health care teams to see if they are at a high risk for lung cancer.
- VA's **Stay Quit Coach** smartphone app is designed to help Veterans to stop smoking.
- Veterans can reach the **Tobacco Cessation Quitline** by calling **1-855-QUIT-VET** (1-855-784-8838) between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.
- **SmokefreeVet** offers additional online resources for Veterans to improve their physical health emotional well-being.



GO₂ Resources

- The GO₂ **helpline** offers free one-on-one support, educational materials, guidance on screening, information about treatment, and more to Veterans.
- The **Phone Buddy Program** is a peer support resource that connects lung cancer survivors.
- **GUIDES** offers support for caregivers whose loved ones are at the end of life, or have passed away, by creating a network built on compassion and shared experience.
- **LungMATCH** is a service for Veterans to receive personal guidance from lung cancer specialists and discover more about potential treatment options.
- The **GO₂ Veteran Spotlight Series** shares the testimonies of nine Veterans diagnosed with lung cancer.

Innovative Strategic Partnerships Facilitated through HAP

HAP's mission is to serve as a trusted resource and catalyst for the growth of effective partnerships at the national, state, and community level and as a facilitator/access point for public and private entities interested in partnering with VHA to benefit Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

Partnerships facilitated and managed by HAP aim to improve **social determinants of health** (SDOH) – conditions in the environments in which Veterans live and work. Support for positive SDOH are connected to their better health outcomes.

This partnership is not an exclusive arrangement or endorsement of services provided by GO₂. Please contact your local VA Medical Center to see if there are other community resources available in your area.

The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Veterans Affairs of the linked web sites, or the information, products or services contained therein.

*Veterans and members of the public are encouraged to adhere to current CDC guidelines pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To learn more about VHA partnerships, please visit: va.gov/healthpartnerships.

For more information on GO₂, please visit: go2foundation.org.