

Veterans & False Diagnosis

Are veterans receiving false diagnosis in order for political activists to get their agendas passed?

→ Political Conspiracy Concerns

1. **Diagnostic errors do occur.** Like any large healthcare system, the VA and civilian healthcare providers can make mistakes. Veterans have reported being:
 - Misdiagnosed.
 - Underdiagnosed.
 - Overdiagnosed.
 - Diagnosed using outdated criteria.
 - Assigned diagnoses that later change after additional evaluation.
2. **Medical records sometimes contain inaccuracies.** Veterans occasionally discover incorrect information in their records, such as:
 - Incorrect substance-use history.
 - Symptoms attributed that they never reported.
 - Incorrect military history.
 - Copy-and-paste documentation errors.
 - Diagnoses entered provisionally that later remain on the chart.

The VA has procedures for requesting corrections or adding statements to the medical record if a veteran believes information is inaccurate.

3. **Policy and advocacy can influence healthcare priorities.** Advocacy organizations, professional medical societies, researchers, legislators, and veterans' organizations often advocate for changes in:
 - PTSD treatment.
 - Military sexual trauma recognition.
 - Toxic exposure screening.
 - Suicide prevention.
 - Women's veteran healthcare.
 - LGBTQ+ veteran care.
 - Mental health screening.

These efforts may influence funding priorities or clinical guidelines.

If a veteran believes they personally received an incorrect diagnosis, there are constructive steps they can take:

- Request a copy of their complete medical records.
- Ask the treating clinician to explain how the diagnosis was reached.
- Seek a second opinion from another qualified clinician.
- Request amendment of factual errors in the medical record.
- Submit a written statement for inclusion in the record if the diagnosis is disputed.
- Consult a Veterans Service Organization (VSO), accredited representative, or attorney if the diagnosis affects disability benefits.