

## 10. Service Connection for Disabilities Resulting From Exposure to Herbicides or Based on Service in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN), Continued

**u. Service Connection for NHL Under 38 CFR 3.313 Based on Service in RVN**

VA regulations at 38 CFR 3.313 provide for a presumption of service connection for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) based on service in the RVN during the Vietnam Era.

**Important:** Exposure to herbicides is not a prerequisite for entitlement under 38 CFR 3.313. The claimant needs only to show service in the RVN, which includes the waters offshore.

**v. Subcategories of NHL Qualifying for Presumptive Service Connection**

When 38 CFR 3.313 was promulgated, the U.S. Center for Disease Control identified a number of subcategories that are manifestations of NHL.

p Extend the presumption of service connection to a Veteran who claims service connection for NHL if

- the Veteran had service in the RVN during the Vietnam Era, including naval service in the offshore waters of the RVN, and
- the medical evidence shows a diagnosis of any of the subcategories of low, intermediate, or high grade lymphoma listed in the table below.

Low Grade Lymphoma	Intermediate Grade Lymphoma	High Grade Lymphoma
Small lymphocytic with plasmacytoid features	Diffuse, small and large	Diffuse, small and large
Small lymphocytic lymphoma and B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia*	Diffuse, small cleaved	Lymphoblastic
Intermediate cell	Diffuse, large cleaved	Immunoblastic
Follicular, mixed small and large	Diffuse, large non-cleaved	Burkitt's
Mantle zone	Diffuse, large	
Follicular, small cleaved	Follicular, large	
Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia		

**\*Note:** Small lymphocytic lymphoma and B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia are considered slightly different forms of the same disease.