



Answers to these questions ► will provide information helpful in understanding patients' medical problems and complaints, and will help establish rapport and therapeutic partnerships with military service members and Veterans.

Those answers will also provide a basis for timely referral to specialized medical resources.

Additional Resources

Office of Academic Affiliations
www.va.gov/oa/pocketcard

**Veterans Health Initiative
Independent Study Courses**
www.va.gov/vhi

**War-Related Illness and
Injury Study Center**
www.warrelatedillness.va.gov

**Office of Public Health and
Environmental Hazards**
www.publichealth.va.gov

**Information for Veterans:
Eligibility for Compensation
and Pension Benefits**
www.vba.va.gov/bln/21

Military Health History

POCKET CARD FOR CLINICIANS

- Tell me about your military experience.
- When and where do you/did you serve?
- What do you/did you do while in the service?
- How has military service affected you?

If your patient answers "Yes" to any of the following questions, ask:

"Can you tell me more about that?"

- Did you see combat, enemy fire, or casualties?
- Were you wounded, injured, or hospitalized?
- Did you ever become ill while you were in the service?
- Were you a prisoner of war?

Tell your patient about VA's  **MyHealthVet**

MyHealthVet

Gateway to Veteran Health
Benefits and Services

Trusted health info

VA benefits & resources

Personal Health Journal

Federal resources

Online Rx refill

Manage your health

www.myhealth.va.gov



Unique Health Risks

Operation Enduring Freedom Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF)

Combined Penetrating, Blunt Trauma,
and Burn Injuries (Blast Injuries)
Dermatologic Issues
Embedded Fragments (shrapnel)
Leishmaniasis
Mental Health Issues
Multi-Drug Resistant Acinetobacter
Reproductive Health Issues
Traumatic Amputation
Traumatic Brain or Spinal Cord Injury
Vision Loss

Gulf Wars

Chemical or Biological Agents
Depleted Uranium (DU)
Dermatologic Issues
Exposures to Smoke
Immunizations
Leishmaniasis
Reproductive Health Issues

Vietnam

Agent Orange Exposure
Hepatitis C

Cold War

Nuclear Testing

WWII/Korea

Cold Injury
Chemical Warfare Agent Experiments
Exposure to Nuclear Weapons
(Including Testing or Cleanup)

Issues of Concern

It is recommended that military service members and all Veterans be asked the following questions:

General

- Do you have a claim pending for illness or injury related to your military service?
- Do you have a service-connected condition?
- Do you know how to initiate a claim if you think you might be entitled? (answer: Call VBA at 1-800-827-1000)
- Did you participate in any experimental projects?
- Were you exposed to noise, chemicals, gasses, demolition of munitions, pesticides, or special paints?

Sexual Harassment, Assault, and Trauma

- Have you ever experienced physical, emotional, or sexual harassment or trauma?
- Is this causing you problems now?
- Do you want a referral?

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection

- Did you have a blood transfusion before 1992?
- Have you ever injected drugs such as heroin or cocaine?

Living Situation

- Where do you live? • Is your housing safe?
- Are you in any danger of losing your housing?
- Do you need assistance in caring for dependents?

Stress Reactions/Adjustment Problems

In your life, have you ever had an experience so horrible, frightening, or upsetting that, in the past month, you...

- Have had nightmares about it or thought about it when you did not want to?
- Tried hard not to think about it or went out of your way to avoid situations that reminded you of it?
- Were constantly on guard, watchful, or easily startled?
- Felt numb or detached from others, activities, or your surroundings?