**General Questions**

- **Would it be ok if I talked with you about your military experience?**
- When and where did you/do you serve and in what branch?
- What type of work did you/do you do while in the service?
- Did you have any illnesses or injuries while in the service?

**If your patient answers “Yes” to any of the following questions, ask:**

- **“Can you tell me more about that?”**
  - Did you ever become ill while you were in the service?
  - Were you or a buddy wounded, injured, or hospitalized?
  - Did you have a head injury with loss of consciousness, loss of memory, “seeing stars” or being temporarily disoriented?
  - Did you see combat, enemy fire, or casualties?
  - Were you a prisoner of war?

**Compensation & Benefits**

- Do you have a service-connected condition?
- Would you like assistance in filing for compensation for injuries/illnesses related to your service?

**Calling VA**

Call VA at 1-800-827-1000 or 844-MyVA311 (698-2311)

**Living Situation**

- **Would it be ok to talk about your living situation?**
- Where do you live and who do you live with? Is your housing safe?
- Are you in any danger of losing your housing?
- Do you need assistance in caring for yourself and/or dependents?

**Sexual Harassment, Assault, and Trauma**

- **Would it be ok to talk about sexual harassment or trauma that you might have experienced?**
- Have you ever experienced physical, emotional, or sexual harassment or trauma?
- Is this past experience causing you problems now?
- Would you like a referral for some help with that?
- Many people find it helpful to get some support.
Ask all military service members and all Veterans

**Common Service-Related Exposure Concerns**

**Military Environmental Exposures (Any Era)**

- Burn Pit Smoke
- Cold Injuries
- Contaminated Water (benzene, trichloroethylene, vinyl chloride)
- Endemic Diseases
- Heat Stroke/Exhaustion
- Hexavalent Chromium
- Mustard Gas
- Nerve Agents
- Pesticides
- Radiation (Ionizing & Non-Ionizing)
- Sand, Dust, Smoke, and Particulates
- TCDD, herbicides, other dioxins

**Occational Hazards**: Asbestos, Industrial Solvents, Lead, Radiation, Fuels, PCBs, Noise/Vibration, Chemical Agent Resistant Coating (CARC)

**Gulf War/Southwest Asia (Afghanistan, Kuwait, Iraq)**

- Animal Bites/Rabies
- Blunt Trauma
- Burn Injuries (Blast Injuries)
- Chemical or Biological Agents
- Chemical Munitions Demolition
- Combined Penetrating Injuries
- Depleted Uranium (DU)
- Dermatologic Issues
- Embedded Fragments (shrapnel)
- Malaria Prevention: Mefloquine (Lariam)
- Mental Health Issues
- Multi-Drug Resistant Acinetobacter
- Oil Well Fires
- Reproductive Health Issues
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Traumatic Amputation
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Vision Loss

**Vietnam, Korean DMZ & Thailand**

- Agent Orange Exposure
- Cold Injuries
- Hepatitis C Risks

**Cold War**

- Chemical Warfare Agent Experiments
- Nuclear Weapons Testing or Cleanup

**WWII & Korean War**

- Chemical Warfare Agent Experiments
- Cold Injuries
- Nuclear Weapons Testing or Cleanup
- Biological Warfare Agents

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**Exposure Concerns**

**Would it be okay if I asked about some things you may have been exposed to during your service?**

**What... were you exposed to?**

- **Chemical** (pollution, solvents, weapons, etc.)
- **Biological** (infectious diseases, weapons)
- **Psychological** (mental or emotional abuse, moral injury)
- **Physical**
  - Blast or explosion
  - Munitions or bullet wound
  - Radiation
  - Shell fragment
  - Heat
  - Vehicular crash
  - Noise/Vibration
  - Other injury

**What... precautions were taken?** *(Avoidance, PPE, Treatment)*

**How... long was the exposure?**

**How... concerned are you about the exposure?**

**Where... were you exposed?**

**When... were you exposed?**

**Who... else may have been affected?** Unit name, etc.

**Behavior**

**Would it be okay if we talked about emotional responses during your service?**

**PTSD**: Have you been concerned that you might suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder? Symptoms can include numbing, re-experiencing symptoms, hyperarousal/being on guard, and/or avoiding situations that remind(s) you of the trauma.

**Depression**: Have you been experiencing sadness, feelings of hopelessness/helplessness, lack of energy, difficulty concentrating, and/or poor sleep?

**Risk Assessment**: Have you had thoughts of harming yourself or others?

**Veterans Crisis Line** 1-800-273-8255 (Press 1) or 1-844-MyVA311 (698-2311)

**Blood Borne Viruses (Hepatitis & HIV)**

- Do you have tattoos? Have you ever injected or snorted drugs, such as heroin, cocaine, or methamphetamine?
- Have you ever been screened for Hepatitis C or HIV? If not, would you like to be screened for these?