Military Health History

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 or currently do while in the service?
Did you have any illnesses or injuries while in the service?

If Veterans answer “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 or illnesses related to your service?

VA Information: 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?

Unwanted Sexual Experiences in the Military

May I ask you about stressful experiences that men and women can have during military service?

1. Did you have any unwanted sexual experiences in the military? For example, threatening or repeated sexual attention, comments or touching?

   If Yes: I am sorry; thank you for sharing that. VA refers to this as ‘military sexual trauma’ or ‘MST’ and offers free MST-related care.
   If No: Okay, thank you. I ask all Veterans because VA offers free care related to these experiences.

2. Did you have any sexual contact against your will or when unable to say no, such as being forced, or when asleep or intoxicated?

   If Yes: I am sorry; thank you for sharing that. VA refers to this as ‘military sexual trauma’ or ‘MST’ and offers free MST-related care.
   If No: Okay, thank you. I ask all Veterans because VA offers free care related to these experiences.
**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 trauma or abuse**
- **Physical**
  - Blast or explosion
  - Munitions or bullet wound

**Radiation**
- Shell fragment
- Heat

**Vehicular crash**
- Excessive noise
- Other injury

**Behavior**

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

PTSD: Have you been concerned that you might suffer from Posttraumatic Stress Disorder? Symptoms can include re-experiencing symptoms such as nightmares or unwanted thoughts, hyperarousal/being “on guard,” avoiding situations that remind you of the trauma, and/or numbing of emotions.

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

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

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 tested for Hepatitis C or HIV? If not, would you like to be tested for these?

**Health Risks Associated With Specific Eras**

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<th>Gulf War/Southwest Asia (Afghanistan, Kuwait, Iraq)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Bites/Rabies</td>
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<td>Blunt Trauma</td>
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<td>Burn Injuries (Blast Injuries)</td>
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<td>Chemical or Biological Agents</td>
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<td>Chemical Munitions Demolition</td>
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<td>Combined Penetrating Injuries</td>
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<td>Depleted Uranium (DU)</td>
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<td>Dermatologic Issues</td>
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<td>Embedded Fragments (shrapnel)</td>
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**Immunizations**: Anthrax, Botulinum Toxoid, Smallpox, Yellow Fever, Typhoid, Cholera, Hepatitis B, Meningitis, Whooping Cough, Polio, Tetanus

**Infectious Diseases**: Malaria, Brucellosis, Campylobacter jejuni, Coxiella burneti, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, nontyphoid Salmonella, Shigella, visceral Leishmaniasis, West Nile Virus

**Vietnam, Korean DMZ & Thailand**

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<tr>
<th>Agent Orange Exposure</th>
<th>Cold Injuries</th>
<th>Hepatitis C Risks</th>
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**Cold War**

| Chemical Warfare Agent Experiments | Nuclear Weapons Testing or Cleanup |

**WWII & Korean War**

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

**Tell your patient about VA’s**
www.myhealth.va.gov
Gateway to Veteran Health Benefits and Services

**Find out more about military exposures**
www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/