

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

Answers to these questions will also provide a basis for timely referral to specialized medical resources.

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For additional resources, including selected articles, abstracts, and bibliographies, please consult the following web sites:

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

Veterans Health Initiative
Independent Study Courses
vaww.sites.lrn.va.gov/vhi/

Office of Public Health and
Environmental Hazards
vaww.vhaco.va.gov/pubhealth

Information for Veterans about
Eligibility for Compensation and
Pension Benefits
www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/index.htm

General Military Service History

- 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
My HealthVet website,
the gateway to veteran health benefits and services.



**This website allows veterans to enter their
Military Service History**

www.myhealth.va.gov/



Unique Health Risks

WWII/Korea

Cold injury
Exposure to nuclear weapons
(including testing or cleanup)
Chemical warfare agent experiments

Cold War

Nuclear testing

Vietnam

Agent Orange exposure
Hepatitis C

Gulf Wars

Exposures to smoke
Leishmaniasis
Immunizations
Chemical or biological agents
Depleted uranium (DU)

Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF)

Combined penetrating, blunt trauma,
and burn injuries (blast injuries)
Traumatic brain or spinal cord injury
Mental health issues
Vision loss
Traumatic amputation
Multi-drug resistant acinetobacter
Leishmaniasis
Depleted uranium (DU)

Issues of Concern

*It is recommended that certain 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 any unusual or toxic substances while in the service?

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection

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

Homelessness

- Where do you live? ● Is your housing secure?
- Are you in any danger of losing your housing?

Sexual Harassment, Assault or Trauma

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

PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)

*In your life, have you ever had an experience so frightening,
horrible, 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?