



SURVEY OF HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCES OF PATIENTS RECENTLY DISCHARGED INPATIENT 2007

In order for the VA to carry out its mission to provide the best possible medical care and services to all veterans, it is extremely important that you complete and return this questionnaire. Your answers help ensure that all veterans receive the highest quality care they have earned and so richly deserve.

We want to remind you that all information is strictly confidential. It will not be shared with your doctor or affect your VA care.

Please read each question and fill in the circle that best describes your experience. Use blue or black ink pen, or pencil. Please be sure to read all pages of this booklet.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This information is collected in accordance with section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Accordingly, we may not conduct or sponsor, and you are not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB number. We anticipate that the time expended by all individuals who complete this survey will average 45 minutes. This includes the time it will take to read instructions, gather the necessary facts and fill out the form. Surveys of healthcare experiences are used to gauge customer perceptions of VA services as well as gather information on patient's functional status and health behaviors. The results of this survey will lead to improvements in the quality of service delivery by helping to shape the direction and focus of specific programs and services. Disclosure of information involves release of statistical data and other non-identifying data for the improvement of services within the VA healthcare system and associated administrative purposes. Submission of this form is voluntary and failure to respond will have no impact on benefits to which you may be entitled.

Please answer all survey questions about your hospitalization at: Alpha VAMC ending on March 3, 2007.

Please answer the questions in this survey about this stay at Alpha VAMC on March 3, 2007. Do not include any other hospital stay in your answers.





YOUR CARE FROM NURSES

1.	During this hospital stay, how often did nurses treat you with <u>courtesy and respect</u> ?
	NeverSometimes
	Usually
	Always
2.	During this hospital stay, how often did nurses listen carefully to you?
	○ Never
	Sometimes
	Usually
	○ Always
3.	During this hospital stay, how often did nurses explain things in a way you could understand?
	○ Never
	Sometimes
	Usually
	Always
4.	During this hospital stay, after you pressed the call button, how often did you get help as soon as you
	wanted it?
	Never
	Sometimes
	Usually
	Always
_	I never pressed the call button Using any number from 0 to 10 where 0 is the worst possible care and 10 is the best possible care, what
ა.	number would you give the care you got from all the nurses who treated you?
	0 Worst possible nursing care
	\bigcirc 2
	\circ 3
	\bigcirc 4
	\bigcirc 5
	\circ 6
	\circ 7
	○ 8
	○ 9
	10 Best possible nursing care
YC	OUR CARE FROM DOCTORS
6	During this hospital stay, how often did doctors treat you with courtesy and respect?
Ο.	Never
	○ Sometimes
	○ Usually
	○ Always
7.	During this hospital stay, how often did doctors <u>listen carefully to you?</u>
	○ Never
	Sometimes
	 Usually
	○ Always
8.	During this hospital stay, how often did doctors <u>explain things</u> in a way you could understand?
	Never
	Sometimes
	Usually
	Always





).	Using any number from 0 to 10 where 0 is the worst possible care and 10 is the best possible care, what number would you give the care you got from all the doctors who treated you? O Worst possible doctor care 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Best possible doctor care
ΓН	E HOSPITAL ENVIRONMENT
10.	During this hospital stay, how often were your room and bathroom kept clean?
	○ Never
	Sometimes
	Usually
14	Always During this hospital stay, how often was the area around your room quiet at night?
	Never
	 Sometimes
	○ Usually
	○ Always
Y C	UR EXPERIENCES IN THIS HOSPITAL
12.	During this hospital stay, did you need help from nurses or other hospital staff in getting to the bathroom or in using a bedpan?
	Yes
	 No → Go to Question 14
13.	How often did you get help in getting to the bathroom or in using a bedpan as soon as you wanted?
	○ Never
	○ Sometimes
	Usually
	Always
14.	During this hospital stay, did you need medicine for pain?
	○ Yes
15	○ No → Go to Question 17 During this hospital stay, how often was your pain well controlled?
13.	Never
	Sometimes
	Usually
	○ Always
16.	During this hospital stay, how often did the hospital staff do everything they could to help you with your
	pain?
	Never
	Sometimes
	Usually
17	 Always During your hospital stay, did doctors, nurses, or other hospital staff ever ask if you were allergic to any
1/.	medicine?
	Yes





 18. During this hospital stay, were you given any medicine that you had not taken before? Yes No → Go to Question 20
 19. Before giving you the medicine, did hospital staff describe possible side effects in a way you could understand? Yes No
WHEN YOU LEFT THE HOSPITAL
 20. After you left the hospital, did you go directly to your own home, to someone else's home, or to anothe health facility? ○ Own home ○ Someone else's home ○ Another health facility → Go to Question 23
 21. During this hospital stay, did doctors, nurses, or other hospital staff talk with you about whether you would have the help you needed when you left the hospital? Yes No
 22. During this hospital stay, did you get information in writing about what symptoms or health problems to look out for after you left the hospital? Yes No
OVERALL RATING OF HOSPITAL
Please answer the following questions about the stay at Alpha Hospital on March 3, 2005. Do not include any other hospital stays in your answer.
23. Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst hospital possible and 10 is the best hospital possible, what number would you use to rate this hospital during your stay? O Worst hospital possible 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 10 Best hospital possible 24 Washington as a superconduction to a middle conduction of the con
24. Would you recommend this hospital to your friends and family? Definitely no Probably no Probably yes Definitely yes
AROUT YOU

Γh	ere are only a few remaining items left.
25.	In general, how would you rate your overall health?
	 Excellent
	Very Good
	○ Good
	Fair
	○ Poor
6.	In general, how would you rate your <u>overall mental or emotional health</u> ?
	© Excellent
	Very Good
	○ Good
	○ Fair
	○ Poor
27.	What is the highest grade or level of school that you have completed?
	Sth grade or less
	Some high school, but did not graduate
	○ High school graduate or GED
	Some college or 2-year degree
	4-year college graduate
	More than 4-year college degree
Ω	Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent?
.0.	Yes, Hispanic or Latino
	No, not Hispanic or Latino
0	
9.	What is your race? Please choose one or more.
	White
	Black or African-American
	Asian Asian
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
	American Indian or Alaskan Indian or Alaskan Native
	Other (please print):
0.	What language do you mainly speak at home?
	English
	Spanish
	Some other language (please print):
1.	Did someone help you complete this survey?
	Yes → Go to Question 32
	○ No → Go to Question 33
2.	How did that person help you? Check all that apply.
	 Read the questions to me
	○ Wrote down the answers I gave
	Answered the questions for me
	Translated the questions into my language
	Helped in some other way
22	
აა.	If you could change one thing about the hospital, what would it be? (Please print your answer on the lines provided below.)
	illies provided below.)





About Your Most Recent VA Hospitalization 2005

***	***ADMISSION***	
34.	Was your hospital stay an emergency or planned in advance? Emergency Planned in advance	
35.	How organized was the admission process? Not at all organized Somewhat organized Very organized	
36.	During your admission did you get enough information about your medical condition and treatment? Yes, definitely Yes, somewhat No Did not want information	
37.	Do you feel you had to wait too long before you got to your room? Yes, definitely Yes, somewhat No	
	If you had to wait to go to your room, did someone from the hospital explain the reason for the delay? Yes No Did not have to wait	
39.	How would you rate the courtesy of the staff who admitted you? Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent	
***	DOCTORS***	
	Was there one particular doctor in charge of your care in the hospital? Yes No Not sure When you had important questions to ask a doctor, did you get answers you could understand?	
	Yes, alwaysYes, sometimesNoDid not have questions	
42.	If you had any anxieties or fears about your condition or treatment, did a doctor discuss them with you? Yes, completely Yes, somewhat No Did not have anxieties or fears	
43.	Did you have confidence and trust in the doctors treating you? Yes, always Yes, sometimes No	





44.	Did doctors talk in front of you as if you weren't there?
	○ Yes, often
	Yes, sometimes
	\bigcirc No
45.	How would you rate the availability of your doctors?
	○ Poor
	○ Fair
	○ Good
	○ Very Good
	Excellent
	NURSES***
40.	When you had important questions to ask a nurse, did you get answers you could understand?
	Yes, always
	Yes, sometimes
	O No
	Olid not have questions
47.	If you had any anxieties or fears about your condition or treatment, did a nurse discuss them with you?
	○ Yes, completely
	○ Yes, somewhat ○
	○ No
	 Did not have anxieties or fears
48.	Did you have confidence and trust in the nurses treating you?
	Yes, always
	Yes, sometimes
	○ No
49.	Did nurses talk in front of you as if you weren't there?
	○ Yes, often
	○ Yes, sometimes
50.	How would you rate the courtesy of your nurses?
	Poor
	○ Fair
	○ Good
	○ Very Good
	Excellent
51	How would you rate the availability of your nurses?
<i>J</i> 1.	Poor
	○ Fair
	○ Good
	○ Very Good
	Excellent
***	HOSPITAL STAFF***
	Did become for the condensation the manifest becomes of a law many marklant
52.	Did you have trouble understanding the provider because of a language problem?
	Yes, definitely
	Yes, somewhat
	○ No
53.	Sometimes in the hospital, one doctor or nurse will say one thing and another will say something quite
	different. Did this happen to you?
	Yes, always
	Yes, sometimes
	○ No





54.	Did a doctor or nurse explain the results of tests in a way you could understand?
	○ Yes, completely
	○ Yes, somewhat ○
	\bigcirc No
	No tests were done
55.	Was personal information about you treated in a confidential manner?
	○ Yes, always
	○ Yes, sometimes
	\bigcirc No
56.	Did you have enough say about your treatment?
	○ Yes, definitely
	Yes, somewhat
	○ No
57.	Did your family or someone else close to you have enough chances to talk to your doctor?
	Yes, definitely
	Yes, somewhat
	○ No
	No family or friends involved
	Family did not want or need information
58.	How much information about your condition or treatment was given to your family or someone close to
	you?
	Not enough
	Right amount
	Too much
	No family or friends involved
	Family did not want or need information
59.	Was it easy for you to find someone on the hospital staff to talk to about your concerns?
	Yes, definitely
	○ Yes, somewhat
	○ No
	Olid not want to talk/no concerns
60.	Did you have enough privacy?
	○ Yes
	○ No
61.	When you needed help eating, bathing, or getting to the bathroom, did you get it in time?
	Yes, always
	○ Yes, sometimes
	O No
	O Did not need help
62.	How many minutes after you used the call button did it <u>usually</u> take before you got the help you needed?
	0 to 5 minutes
	6 to 10 minutes
	11 to 15 minutes
	16 to 30 minutes
	More than 30 minutes
	Never got help
	Never used call button
^^	No call button available
0ა.	When you had pain, was it <u>usually</u> severe, moderate, or mild?
	○ Severe ○ Moderate
	○ Moderate
	○ Mild ○ Did not have pain
	 Did not have pain





64. now many minutes after you asked for pain medicine did it <u>usually</u> take before you got it?
O to 5 minutes
6 to 10 minutes
11 to 15 minutes
16 to 30 minutes
More than 30 minutes
Never got pain medicine
Never asked for pain medicine
Didn't have pain
65. Do you think that the hospital staff did everything they could to help control your pain?
Yes, definitely
Yes, somewhat
○ No
O Didn't have pain
66. Overall, how much pain medicine did you get?
Not enough
 Right amount
Too much
 Didn't have pain
67. Sometimes people who are in pain don't ask for pain medication. Was this true for you?
○ Yes
○ No
○ Did not have pain
68. If you answered yes to the question above, was it because
You were concerned it might be habit forming
<u> </u>
A patient should expect to put up with some pain
 You felt it would be a bother if you asked for it
 No one told you pain medication was available
 You were concerned about possible side effects
You were concerned about what might happen if you mixed pain medications with your other
medication
Other
69. Did you feel like you were treated with respect and dignity while you were in the hospital?
○ Yes, always
○ Yes, sometimes
○ No
70. Did you feel that you were treated like a second class citizen?
○ Yes
○ No
Your Room
70a. cleanliness of your room
Poor
○ Good
Very Good
 Excellent
O Does Not Apply
70b. privacy in your room
○ Poor
○ Fair
○ Good
○ Very Good
Excellent
 Does Not Apply





Υ	our Room
7 0c	c. noise level
	○ Poor
	○ Fair
	○ Good
	○ Very Good
	Excellent
	Does Not Apply
700	d. sense of safety and security
UC	Poor
	○ Fair
	○ Good
	○ Very Good
	© Excellent
	Opes Not Apply
_	uipment and Facilities
70a	a. ease of finding your way around the hospital
	○ Poor
	○ Fair
	○ Good
	○ Very Good
	Excellent
	O Does Not Apply
70b	o. availability of parking
	○ Poor of the second s
	○ Fair
	○ Good
	○ Very Good
	Excellent
	Does Not Apply
700	
UC	c. cost of parking
	O Poor
	○ Fair
	○ Good
	○ Very Good
	C Excellent
	O Does Not Apply
(GOING HOME*
	Did someone on the hospital staff explain the purpose of the medicines you were to take at home in a
	way you could understand?
	Yes, completely
	Yes, somewhat
	○ No
	 Did not need explanation
	No medicines at home
72.	Did someone on the hospital staff tell you about medication side effects to watch for when you went
	home?
	○ Yes, completely
	○ Yes, somewhat
	○ No
	 Did not need explanation
	No medicines at home





73.	Did someone on the hospital staff tell you about what problems about your illness or operation to water for after you went home? Yes, completely Yes, somewhat No
74.	Did someone on the hospital staff tell you what activities you could do after you got home (such as driving, walking up steps, lifting, sex)? Yes, completely Yes, somewhat No
75.	Did the hospital staff give your family or someone close to you all the information they needed to help you recover after you got home? Yes, definitely Yes, somewhat No No Ro family or friends involved Family did not want or need information
76.	Did you know who to contact if you needed medical advice or help right away, after you went home? Yes, always Yes, sometimes No
77.	How would you rate how well the doctors and nurses worked together? Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent Do not know
78.	Overall, how would you rate the quality of care you received at the hospital? Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
79.	If you could have free care outside the VA, would you choose to be hospitalized here again? Definitely would not Probably would Probably would Definitely would
30.	. How would you rate your health now? Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent





 81. Have you ever complained to someone about the care that you got during your most recent hospitalization? (You may choose more than one.) Yes, to a patient representative Yes, to some other official in the medical center Yes, to an official outside the medical center Yes, to a family member or friend Had a complaint but did not report it Had no complaints
If you spoke to either a patient representative or an official insider or outside the VA hospital, please answer the following four (4) questions.
 82. On a 5 point scale (where 1 = Very easy and 5 = Very difficult) how easy or difficult was it for you to find someone to hear your complaint? (Fill in only one circle) 1 Very Easy 2 3 4 5 Very Difficult Not applicable
 83. How long is it reasonable to wait for a complaint like yours to be resolved? Same day 2-7 days 8-14 days 15-21 days More than 21 days
84. Was your complaint or problem settled to your satisfaction? Yes No Did not report a complaint
85. How long did it take for the VA hospital to resolve your complaint? Same day 2-7 days 8-14 days 15-21 days More than 21 days Am still waiting for it to be settled
ABOUT YOUR HEALTH
Instructions: The following questions ask for your views about your health. Please answer every questions by filling in one circle for each answer. If you are unsure about how to answer a question, please give the best answer you can.
86. In general, would you say your health is Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor





The following two questions are about activities you might do <u>during a typical day</u> . Does <i>your health now limit you</i> in these activities? If so, how much?
B6a. Moderate activities, such as moving a table, pushing a vacuum cleaner, bowling, or playing golf?
 Yes, Limited A Lot
Yes, Limited A Little
No, Not Limited At All
86b. Climbing several flights of stairs?
○ Yes, Limited A Little
Yes, Limited A LittleNo, Not Limited At All
During the past 4 weeks, have you had any of the following problems with your work or other regular daily activities as a result of your physical health?
B6c. Accomplished less than you would like
No, none of the time
Yes, a little of the time
○ Yes, some of the time
Yes, most of the time
 Yes, all of the time
86d. Were limited in the kind of work or other activities
No, none of the time
Yes, a little of the time
Yes, some of the time
Yes, most of the timeYes, all of the time
<u>During the past 4 weeks,</u> have you had any of the following problems with your work or other regular daily activities as a result of any emotional problems (such as feeling depressed or
anxious)?
86e. Accomplished less than you would like
○ No, none of the time
 Yes, a little of the time
Yes, some of the time
○ Yes, most of the time
Yes, all of the time
86f. Didn't do work or other activities as <i>carefully</i> as usual
No, none of the timeYes, a little of the time
Yes, some of the time
Yes, most of the time
Yes, all of the time
87. <u>During the past 4 weeks</u> , how much did <i>pain</i> interfere with your normal work (including both work
outside the home and housework)?
O Not at all
A little bit
Moderately
Quite a bit Extremely
Extremely

These three questions are about how you feel and how things have been with you <u>during the past four</u> (4) weeks:





How much of the time during the past 4 weeks:
87a. Have you felt calm and peaceful? All of the time Most of the time A good bit of the time Some of the time A little of the time None of the time
87b. Did you have a lot of energy? All of the time Most of the time A good bit of the time Some of the time A little of the time None of the time
87c. Have you felt downhearted and blue? All of the time Most of the time A good bit of the time Some of the time A little of the time None of the time
 88. During the past 4 weeks, how much of the time has your physical health or emotional problems interfered with your social activities (like visiting with friends, relatives, etc.)? All of the time Most of the time A good bit of the time Some of the time A little of the time None of the time
Now we'd like to ask you some questions about how your health may have changed.
89. Compared to one year ago, how would you rate your physical health in general now? Much better Somewhat better About the same Somewhat worse Much worse
 90. Compared to one year ago, how would you rate your emotional problems (such as feeling anxious, depressed or irritable) now? Much better Somewhat better About the same Somewhat worse Much worse
91. How much of the time during the past week, did you feel depressed? Rarely or none of the time (less than 1 day) Some or a little of the time (1-2 days) Occasionally or a moderate amount of the time (3-4 days) Most or all of the time (5-7 days)





interest Yes	or pleasure in things that you usually cared about or enjoyed?
•	u had 2 years or more in your life when you felt depressed or sad most days, even if you felt metimes?
○ Yes○ No	u been treated by a VA provider for chronic pain in the past 12 months?
95. If you hat reatment Poor Fair Good Very Exce	d Good
OTHER Q	QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU
	wer the following questions. We want to remind you that all information is strictly I. It will not be shared with your doctor or affect your VA care.
Yes,No, I	
WhiteBlackAsiarNativ	your race? (mark all that apply) e (Caucasian) k or African American n ve Hawaiian or Pacific Islander rican Indian or Alaska Native
○ Did n○ High○ Some	the last year of school you have completed? not complete high school school graduate or GED e college ege graduate or beyond
 Marri Divor Sepa Wido	rced arated
100. Are you Empl Self-e Unab Looki	currently loyed for wages employed ble to work ing for work and unemployed for more than 1 year ing for work and unemployed for less than 1 year emaker ent





101. What was your total household income (income from all sources) during the past 12 months?
○ \$15,000 or less
○ \$15,001 to \$30,000
○ \$30,001 to \$60,000
\$60,001 or more
102. How tall are you without shoes on? (Fill in feet (ft.) and inches (in.)) (If 1/2" round up) 5ft 0in or less
○ 5ft 1in
○ 5ft 2in
○ 5ft 3in
○ 5ft 4in
Str 5in
○ 5ft 6in
5ft 7in
○ 5ft 8in
○ 5ft 9in
○ 5ft 10in
○ 5ft 11in
6ft 0in
6ft 1in
6ft 2in
6ft 3in or more
103. How much do you weigh? (in pounds) (Fill in one)
90 lbs. or less
○ 91-100 lbs.
○ 101-110 lbs.
○ 111-120 lbs.
○ 121-130 lbs.
○ 131-140 lbs.
○ 141-150 lbs.
○ 151-160 lbs.
○ 161-170 lbs.
○ 171-180 lbs.
○ 181-190 lbs.
○ 191-200 lbs.
○ 201-210 lbs.
○ 211-220 lbs.
○ 221-230 lbs.
○ 231-240 lbs.
○ 241-250 lbs.
○ 251-260 lbs.
○ 261-270 lbs.
○ 271-280 lbs.
○ 281-290 lbs.
○ 291-300 lbs.
○ 301-310 lbs.
311 lbs. and over
104. During the past 12 months, have you been seen by(fill in one)
VA providers only
 Non-VA providers only
VA and non-VA providers
 No providers





105. Do you have one person who you think of as your regular doctor?Yes, a VA doctorYes, a non-VA doctor
\circ No
 106. Do you have Medicare coverage? (mark all that apply) Medicare is a federal health program for seniors over 65 and certain younger disabled people. Yes, for hospital care (Part A) Yes, for doctor office visits (Part B) Yes, for the Medicare+Choice or HMO plan (Part C)
 No, I have no Medicare coverage 107. Do you have Medicaid? Medicaid is a state-run health insurance program for people whose income is below a certain level. Yes No
108. Do you have any other health insurance coverage? (mark all that apply)
Yes, a Medigap policy Yes, other private health insurance No, I have no other insurance
QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR HEALTH BEHAVIORS
108aHow often do you take aspirin? Every day
 Every other day Occasionally Never
108blf you take aspirin, do you take it to(mark all that apply) Relieve Pain Reduce chance of heart attack or stroke Other
109. Have you ever smoked cigarettes? Yes, still smoking every day Yes, still smoking some days Yes, but no longer smoke at all No, never smoked (Go to #92)
110. If you used to smoke but no longer do so, about how long has it been since you last smoked cigarettes at all?
 Less than 1 month 1-5 months 6-12 months 1-5 years More than 5 years (Go to #92)
 111. On the average, about how many cigarettes a day do you now smoke? (If you no longer smoke at all, indicate the number of cigarettes per day when you last smoked) None, never smoked Less than 10 10-20 21-40 More than 40









115. How many drinks containing alcohol did you have on a typical day when you were drinking in the past 12 months? O drinks (Did not drink in the past 12 months) 1-2 drinks 3-4 drinks 5-6 drinks 7-9 drinks 10 or more drinks
116. How often did you have 6 or more drinks on one occasion in the past 12 months? Never Less than monthly Monthly Weekly Daily or almost daily
117. In the past 12 months has a VA doctor or other VA health care provider advised you about your drinking (to drink less or not to drink alcohol)? Yes No
118. In the past 12 months has a VA doctor or other VA health care provider referred you for help with your drinking, either to professional treatment or to a self-help group such as AA? Yes No
 119. Have you ever received professional treatment or attended self-help meetings (such as AA) for your drinking? Yes, during the past 12 months Yes, but not during the past 12 months No
RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL NEEDS
120. My religious/spiritual needs are an important part of my overall care. Yes No Not applicable
121. I was asked if I had any religious/spiritual needs during my stay. Yes No Not applicable
122. My religious/spiritual needs were appropriately assessed and addressed. Yes No Not applicable
123. Literature in keeping with my faith was offered to me. Yes No Not applicable





If you have a specific question or need help with your VA care, you may contact the VA:

1. By telephone:

a. VA Benefits: 1-800-827-1000

b. Health Care Benefits: 1-877-222-8387c. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD): 1-800-829-4833

2. Information on a broad range of veterans' benefits is available on our home page at

www.va.gov.

3. At your local VA medical center. Either contact the department that you think can help you or ask for the Patient Advocate.

Your answers are important to help us improve VA care. Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please place the completed questionnaire in the envelope we sent you. No stamp is required. Simply place the envelope in any mailbox and return the survey to:

Office of Quality and Performance Data Center C/O National Research Corporation P.O. Box 82660 Lincoln, NE 68501-2660

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