Follow-Up Study of a National Cohort of Gulf War and Gulf Era Veterans

QUESTIONNAIRE Sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs



OMB Number: 2900-XXXX Estimated Burden: 30 minutes

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT: The information requested on this survey is solicited under authority of 38 U.S.C. Section 7303. It is being collected to assist VA in learning more about the health of recent veterans and will help VA to provide better medical care. The information you supply will be confidential and protected by the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) and specifically the VA system of records entitled 34VA12, "Veteran, Patient, Employee and Volunteer Research and Development Project Records - VA." Releases of the information may only be made with your consent or as identified in a "routine use" of the system of records. Routine uses include releases of statistical data and non-identifying data for research and associated administrative purposes. Disclosure is voluntary; failure to furnish the requested information will have no adverse effect on any VA benefit to which you may be entitled.

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1a.	a. Have you served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Persian Gulf area?								
	NoYes IF YES, 1b. Period of Persian Gulf service:								
	From/ to/ to//								
1c.	Have you served in the U.S. Armed Forces since the Persian Gulf War ended in 1991?								
	No Yes								
IF Y	YES,								
1d.	In what component(s) did you serve with since 1991? (Mark all that apply)								
	Active Duty Reserve National Guard								
1e.	Have you been deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and/or Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)?								
	No Yes								
2.	What were you doing most of the <u>past 12 months</u> ? (Please mark one.)								
	Working outside the home Going to school Keeping house On active duty Child care Working from home Keeping house and child care Something else (Please specify:)								
3a.	Thinking back over the past 2 weeks , did you stay in bed or at home all or part of any day because you did not feel well or as a result of illness or injury?								
	No Yes IF YES, 3b. How many days did you stay in bed or at home more than half of the day because of illness or injury during the <u>past 2 weeks</u> ?								
	days								
4a.	Are you limited in your employment or the kind of work you can do around the house because o any impairment or health problem?								
	No Yes IF YES, 4b. What kind of health problem(s) do you have?								
	<u> </u>								

(exclude routine	visits for vaccination	ons, ph	ysical examina	ations, etc.)	
None	No. of visits	5b.	Please explair	n reasons	for visits	or diagnosis.
		1.				
		_				
		4.				
6a. During the past	12 months how ma	anv tim	es have vou b	een hospi	talized ov	verniaht or longer?
None	No. of		-			alizations or diagn
	Hospitalizations		•		•	_
		٦.				
7a. About how tall a	re you without shoe	s?	(feet)	(incl		
7b. About how muc			,	(,	
7c. In general, wou	ant, please give you ld you say your hea		Ü	·		,
Excellent	Very good	G	ood	Fair —	Po	or
		[
Ba. Has your doctor <u>e</u> following conditio		nave an	y of the		this condi	ition been present
i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i		NO	YES		NO	YES
Arthritis of any kind (including rheumate)						
2. Fibromyalgia						
3. Skin cancer						
4. Any other cancer						
5. Dermatitis or any o	ther skin trouble					
6. Cirrhosis of the live	er					
7 Henatitis						

5a. During the **past 12 months** how many clinic or doctor visits have you made because you were sick?

	your doctor <u>ever</u> told you that you hwing conditions?	nave any of	the	Has this con in the past 4	dition been pres I weeks?	ent
		NO	YES	NO	YES	
8. Ch	ronic Fatigue Syndrome					
9. Ga	stritis (irritation of the stomach)					
10. Irr	itable bowel syndrome					
11. Di	abetes					
	ther endocrine disorder acluding thyroid problems)					
13. Re	epeated seizures, convulsions, blackouts					
14. De	epression					
15. Ne	euralgia or neuritis (nerve inflamma	tion) 🔲				
16. Ar	ny disease of the genital organs					
17. Co	oronary heart disease					
18. Hy	pertension (high blood pressure)					
19. St	roke or cerebral-vascular accident					
20. Ta	achycardia or rapid heart					
21. Asthn	าล					
22. Emphy	ysema or chronic bronchitis (or c obstructive pulmonary disease)					
	ated bladder infections					
9a. Wei	TROPHIC LATERAL SCLER Te you ever told by a health pro Yes-Go to 9b	•			u Gehrig's dis	sease?
	No-Go to 9c					
	DK -Go to 9c					
	re you clinically diagnosed wit Yes	th ALS?				
0	No-Go to 9c					
	nere another current diagnosis Yes-Go to 9d	s given by	/ a health pi	rofessional?		
0	No					

9d. What was the diagnosis (check all that apply)?O Possibly ALS (not yet determined/diagnosed)

	0 F	Progressive bulbar palsy
	O F	Progressive muscular atrophy
9e.	Hav O `	e you had progression in muscle weakness? Yes
	1 0	No
IRF	RITA	BLE BOWEL SYNDROME (IBS) QUESTIONS
10 a	. In t	the last 3 months, how often did you have discomfort or pain anywhere in your abdomen?
	0	Never-skip remaining questions
	0	Less than one day a month
	0	One day a month
	0	Two to three days a month
	0	One day a week
	0	More than one day a week
	0	Every day
10 b		r women: Did this discomfort or pain occur only during your menstrual bleeding and not at ther times? No
	0	Yes
	0	Does not apply because I have had the change in life (menopause) or I am a male
	J	bees not apply because i have had the change in line (menopause) of i am a male
10c	. Ha ON	ve you had this discomfort or pain 6 months or longer?
	ΟY	es
10 d		w often did this discomfort or pain get better or stop after you had a bowel movement? ever or rarely
	0 S	ometimes
	00	ften
	OM	lost of the time
	ОА	lways
10 e		nen this discomfort or pain started, did you have more frequent bowel movements? ever or rarely
	0 S	ometimes
	00	ften
	OM	lost of the time
	OA	lways
10f.		en this discomfort or pain started, did you have less frequent bowel movements? ever or rarely

O Primary lateral sclerosis

	0 S	ometimes
	00	ften
	ОМ	ost of the time
	OAl	ways
10 g	. W h	en this discomfort or pain started, were your stools (bowel movements) looser? Never or rarely
	0	Sometimes
	0	Often
	0	Most of the time
	0	Always
10h		en this discomfort or pain started, how often did you have harder stools? ever or rarely
	0 Sc	ometimes
	00	ften
	ОМ	ost of the time
	OAI	ways
10i.		ne last 3 months, how often did you have hard or lumpy stools? ever or rarely
	0 Sc	ometimes
	00	ften
	ОМ	ost of the time
	OAI	ways
10j.		ne last 3 months, how often did you have loose mushy or watery stools? ever or rarely
	0 S	ometimes
	00	ften
	ОМ	ost of the time
	OA	ways
FUI	NCT	IONAL DYSPEPSIA QUESTIONS
11a	re	he last 3 months, how often did you have pain or discomfort in the middle of your chest (not elated to heart problems)? Ever
	OLe	ess than one day a month
	00	ne day a month
	ОТи	vo to three days a month
	00	ne day a week
	ОМ	ore than one day a week
	0E\	very day

11b. In the last 3 months, how often did you have heartburn (a burning discomfort or burning pain in your chest)? ONever OLess than one day a month OOne day a month OTwo to three days a month OOne day a week OMore than one day a week OEvery day 11c. In the last 3 months, how often did you feel uncomfortably full after a regular sized meal?

O Never-skip to guestion #

OLess than one day a month

OOne day a month

OTwo to three days a month

OOne day a week

OMore than one day a week

OEvery day

11d. Have you had this uncomfortable fullness after meals 6 months or longer?

ONo

OYes

11e. In the last 3 months, how often were you unable to finish a regular size meal?

ONever-skip to question 7

OLess than one day a month

OOne day a month

OTwo to three days a month

OOne day a week

OMore than one day a week

OEvery day

11f. Have you had this inability to finish regular size meals 6 months or longer?

ONo

OYes

11g. In the last 3 months, how often did you have pain or burning in the middle of your abdomen, above your belly button but not in your chest?

O Never-skip remaining questions

OLess than one day a month

OOne day a month

OTwo to three days a month

OOne day a week

OMore than one day a week

O Every day 11h. Have you had this pain or burning 6 months or longer? **O**No **O**Yes 11i. Did this pain or burning occur and then completely disappear during the same day? O Never or rarely **O**Sometimes **O**Often OMost of the time **O**Always 11j. Usually, how severe was the pain or burning in the middle of your abdomen, above your belly button? OVery mild **O**Mild **O** Moderate **O**Severe OVery severe 11k. Was this pain or burning relieved by taking antacids? O Never or rarely **O**Sometimes OOften. OMost of the time **O**Always 111. Did this pain or burning usually get better or stop after a bowel movement or passing gas? O Never or rarely **O**Sometimes O Often OMost of the time **O**Always

11m. How often was this pain or discomfort relieved by moving or changing positions?

O Never or rarely

OSometimes

OOften

OMost of the time

OAlways

12b. IF YES, in what

12a. In the past 12 months, have any of the following life even happened to you?		month and year did this FIRST happen?					
	NO	YES	MONTH/YEAR				
1. Applied for unemployment benefits			1				
2. Applied for a job			1				
Applied for disability payment			1				
4. Major financial problems (such as bankruptcy)			1				
5. Lost medical insurance			1				
6. You were divorced or separated			I				
Death or serious accident/illness of a family member or close friend			1				
8. Lost a job			1				
Started a new job or got promoted or returned to school			1				
10. Formed a new sexual relationship			1				
11. Got married			1				
12. Had a child			1				
13. Moved to another house or apartment			1				
14. Personally experienced a serious injury from a motor vehicle accident			1				
13a. Have you smoked cigarettes in the past 12 months? • No • Yes → IF YES, 13b. How many cigarettes do you smoke per day? 13c. How old were you when you first started smoking? (AGE) IF NO, 13d. Have you ever smoked cigarettes even occasionally? • No • Yes → IF YES, 13e. When did you last stop? (YEAR)							

13f. During the **past 12 months**, have you been treated for a sexually transmitted disease or venereal disease (e.g., gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes, Chlamydia)?

• No • Yes

13g. During the **past month**, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise?"

• No • Yes

14a. Have you experienced any of the following symptoms during the <u>past 12 months</u>? For the purpose of the study the severity of symptoms is defined as follows:

mild: just aware but not slowed down by symptoms, or sufficient to take non- prescription drugs

to relieve the symptoms (aspirin, tums, etc.).

severe: sufficient to seek medical advice, take prescription drugs, lose work or limit routine

activities.

14b. In the <u>past 12 months</u> hav persistent or recurring problem with?	had	IF YES, PLEASE MARK ONE		14c. Has this been present months?	s symptom more than 6	
	NO	YES	MILD	SEVERE	NO NO	YES
1. Any headaches						
A sore throat, hoarse voice or other throat problems						
Generalized muscle aching or cramps						
4. Joint aching or pain						
5. Problems with fatigue lasting more than 24 hours after exertion						
Awaken feeling tired and worm out after a full night of sleep						
7. Had difficulty in concentrating, reasoning or memory loss						
8. Tender lymph nodes						

15. This question contains a list of comments made by people after stressful life events. Please read each item and mark how frequently these comments were true for you <u>DURING THE PAST 4 WEEKS</u>. If it did not occur during the past 4 weeks, please mark the "not at all" column.

15a. In the past 4 weeks , have you had .	15a. In the <u>past 4 weeks</u> , have you had ?								
	NOT AT ALL	LITTLE BIT	MODERATELY	QUITE A BIT	EXTREMELY				
Repeated, disturbing memories of stressful experiences from the past.									
Repeated, disturbing dreams of stressful experiences from the past.									
Suddenly acting or feeling as if stressful experiences were happening again.									
Feeling very upset when something happened that reminds you of stressful experiences from the past.									
Trouble remembering important parts of stressful experiences from the past.									
Loss of interest in activities that you used to enjoy.									
7. Feeling distant or cut off from other people.									
8. Feeling emotionally numb, or being unable to have loving feelings for those close to you.	D								

Feeling as if your future will somehow be cut short.								
10. Trouble falling asleep or staying asleep.								
11. Feeling irritable or having angry outbursts.								
12. Having difficulty concentrating.								
13. Being "super-alert," or watchful or on guard.								
14. Feeling jumpy or easily startled.								
15. Having physical reactions when something reminds you of stressful experiences from the past								
16. Avoid thinking about your stressful experiences from the past, or avoid having feelings about them.								
17. Avoid activities or situations because they remind you of stressful experiences from the past.								
16. The following questions are about activities you might do during a typical day. Does your health now limit you in these activities? If so, how much?								

	Yes, limited a lot	Yes, limited a little	No, not limited at all
a) Moderate activities, such as moving a table, pushing a vacuum cleaner, bowling, or playing golf			
b) Climbing several flights of stairs			

17. During the <u>past 4 weeks</u>, how much of the time have you had any of the following problems with your work or other regular daily activities <u>as a result of your physical health?</u>

	All of the time	Most of the time	Some of the time	A little of the time	None of the time
a) Accomplished less than you would like					
b) Were limited in the kind of work or other activities					-

18. During the <u>past 4 weeks</u>, how much of the time have you had any of the following problems with your work or other regular daily activities <u>as a result of any emotional problems</u> (such as feeling depressed or anxious)?

	All of the time	Most of the time	Some of the time	A little of the time	None of the time
a) Accomplished less than you would like					
b) Did work or other activities less carefully than usual					

19. During the <u>past 4 weeks</u>, how much did <u>pain</u> interfere with your normal work (including both work outside the home and housework)?

Not at all A little bit Moderately Quite a bit Extremely

20. These questions are about how you feel and how things have been with you <u>during the</u> <u>past 4 weeks</u>. For each question, please give the one answer that comes closest to the way you have been feeling. How much of the time during the <u>past 4 weeks</u>...

	All of the time	Most of the time	Some of the time	A little of the time	None of the time
a) have you felt calm and peaceful?					
b) did you have a lot of energy?					
c) have you felt downhearted and depressed?					

All of the Most of the Some of A little of None of the the time time time the time time 22. During the past 4 weeks, how much have you been **Bothered Bothered** Not bothered by any of the following problems? **Bothered** a little a lot a. Stomach pain..... Back pain..... b. Pain in your arms, legs, or joints (knees, hips, etc.).. Menstrual cramps or other problems with your periods..... П Pain or problems during sexual intercourse..... Headaches..... f. П Chest pain..... g. Dizziness..... П i. Fainting spells..... П Feeling your hearth pound or race..... \Box П Shortness of breath..... k. П Constipation, loose bowels, or diarrhea..... I. m. Nausea, gas, or indigestion..... Wheezing in your chest..... n. П Problems with Coughing..... \Box A fever or chills.....

21. During the <u>past 4 weeks</u>, how much of the time has your <u>physical health or emotional</u> <u>problems</u> interfered with your social activities (like visiting friends, relatives, etc.)?

23.	by a		Seve at all da		More than half the days	Nearly every day
	a.	Little interest or pleasure in doing things				
	b.	Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless				
	C.	Trouble falling or staying asleep, or sleeping too much				
	d.	Feeling tired or having little energy				
	e.	Poor appetite or overeating				
	f.	Feeling bad about yourself – or that you are a failure or have let yourself or your family down				
	g.	Trouble concentrating on things, such as reading the newspaper or watching television				
	h.	have noticed? Or the opposite – being so fidgety or restless that you have been moving around a lot] [
	i.	Thoughts that you would be better off dead or of hurting yourself in some way] [
QU	ESTI	ONS ABOUT ANXIETY	N 14	^	VEC	
		ne <u>past 4 weeks,</u> have you had an anxiety attack – / feeling fear or panic?	N(J	YES	
If y	ou cł	necked "NO" to question # 24(a), go to question #26.				
	b.	Has this ever happened before?	[
	C.	Do some of these attacks come suddenly out of the blue that is, in situations where you don't expect to be nervou uncomfortable?	s or _			
	d.	Do these attacks bother you a lot or are you worried abo having another attack?	_			
25.	Thin	k about your last bad anxiety attack.	N	0	YES	
	a	. Were you short of breath?	[
	b	. Did your heart race, pound, or skip?	[
	С	. Did you have chest pain or pressure?	[
	d	. Did you sweat?				
	е	. Did you feel as if you were choking?	[
	f.	Did you have hot flashes or chills?	[
	g	. Did you have nausea or an upset stomach, or the feeli	ng that			
		you were going to have diarrhea?	[

	h.	Did you feel dizzy, unsteady, or faint?			
	i.	Did you have tingling or numbness in parts of your body	⁄?□		
	j.	Did you tremble or shake?]	
	k.	Were you afraid you were dying?			
26.		he past 4 weeks , how often have you been bothered by the following problems?	, Not at all	Several days	More thai half the days
	a.	Feeling nervous, anxious, on edge, or worrying a lot about different things			
If y	ou chec	ked "Not at all", go to question #27.			
	b.	Feeling restless so that it is hard to sit still			
	C.	Getting tired very easily			
	d.	Muscle tension, aches, or soreness			
	e.	Trouble falling asleep or staying asleep			
	f.	Trouble concentrating on things, such as reading a book or watching TV			
	g.	Becoming easily annoyed or irritable	. 🗆		
27.	Do yo	u ever drink alcohol (including beer or wine)?	🗌 N	0 [YES
IF N	10 GO	TO QUESTION #28.			
IF Y	/ES, 27	a. Average # of drinks per week? 1-2	you firs	old were st started o egularly?	
270	: How	often do you have 5 or more drinks on one occasion?			
	Never	Less than monthly Once a month Weekly	Daily	/ Aln	nost daily
270	d. Have	e any of the following happened to you more than once	in the pa	st 6 mon	ths?
	1.	You drank alcohol even though a doctor suggested that stop drinking because of a problem with your health	- 1		'ES □
	2.	You drank alcohol, were high from alcohol, or hung ove while you were working, going to school, or taking care children or other responsibilities	of _	1	
	3.	You missed or were late for work, school, or other activities because you were drinking or hung over]	

27e	. Have	e any of the f	following happened to yo	ou more than once i	n the past NO			
	4.		oroblem getting along wi		le you		: 5	
	5.		a car after having severa] []	
27f.			f any problems on ques work, take care of thing					ide it
		t difficult at all	Somewhat difficult	Very difficult	Extremely difficult	y		
	1							
28.	In the	past 4 weel	ks, how much have yo		Not	Bothered	Bothered	ıs?
•	Morr	wing about w	our health		Bothered	a little □	a lot □	
a.								
b.	Your	weight or ho	ow you look			Ш	Ш	
C.	Little	or no sexua	ıl desire or pleasure duri	ng sex				
d.			usband/wife, partner/lov nd					
e.			ing care of children, pare	_				
f.	Stres	ss at work ou	ıtside of the home or at	school	. 🔲			
g.	Finaı	ncial problen	ns or worries					
h.	Havi	ng no one to	turn to when you have a	a problem				
i.	Som	ething bad th	nat happened <u>recently</u>		. 🗆			
j.	happ destr	ened to you oyed, a seve	ming about something te in the past – like your here accident, being hit of ommit a sexual act	ouse being r assaulted, or	. 🗆			
29.	physic	•	nths, have you been hit someone, or has anyone al act?			NO	YES	
30.	Are yo	u taking any	medicine for anxiety, de	epression, or stress	?	NO	YES	

GO TO THE NEXT QUESTION

	a.	Which best describes your	menstrual periods?		
		Periods are regular of	r unchanged in pattern.		
		No periods because	pregnant or recently gave birth.		
		Periods have become	e irregular or changed in frequency, d	luration or am	ount.
		Having periods becau	ise taking hormone replacement (est e	rogen) therap	у
		No period for over on	e year.		
32	. IF NO	PERIOD FOR OVER ONE	YEAR,		
a.	What is	s the reason that you have n	ot had a period in the past 12 months	s?	
		Pregnancy			
		Breast feeding			
		Menopause/hystere	ctomy		
		Medical conditions/t	reatments		
		Other			
b.	proble	m with your mood – like dep	d starts, do you have a <u>serious</u> ression, anxiety, irritability, anger	NO (or N/A) □	YES
c.	If YES	: Do these problems go awa	y by the end of your period?		
d.	Have y	you given birth within the las	t 6 months?		
e.	Have y	you had a miscarriage within	the last 6 months?		
f.	Are yo	u having difficulty getting pro	egnant?		
33			e pills containing both estrogen and pot include birth control pills	progestin	
			YES		
b.	Are yo	u taking pills containing both	estrogen and progestin now?		
			YES		
С			opped taking them, for how long alto containing both estrogen and proges		
		Vears	Months		

31. FOR WOMEN ONLY: Questions about menstruation, pregnancy and childbirth.

The following questions ask about unexplained multisymptom illnesses, that is, having **several different symptoms** together that persist for **6 months or longer** and are not adequately explained by conventional medical or psychiatric diagnoses.

Unexplained multisymptom illness might include things like fatigue, muscle or joint pain, headaches, memory problems, digestive problems, respiratory problems, skin problems, or any other unexplained symptoms. These problems are often not labeled at all, but may sometimes be diagnosed as chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, irritable bowel syndrome, or multiple chemical sensitivity.

34 . Since January 1991, have 6 months or longer?	you <i>ever</i> exper	ienced unexpla	ined multisymptom i	llness that lasted
☐ No [If NO, skip to pa	nge 18] 🛭 🕇	es		
35. During what year did you <u>f</u>	<u>irst</u> experience	unexplained mu	ultisymptom illness?	
(year) [If unsure,	olease estimate	.]		
36. What was the most recen	t year in which y	ou experience	d unexplained multis	symptom illness?
(year) [If unsure, pl	ease estimate.]			
37 . During the past 12 month health problems?	ns , how many al None Nu			made because you had
38. If alternative treatments w reasons for the treatment(s (Mark all that apply)			•	· , , .
Treatment	Not used	Used at VA	Used Elsewhere	Reason for treatment
a. Acupuncture				
b. Biofeedback				
c. Chiropractic care				
d. Energy healing				
e. Folk remedies				
f. Herbal therapy				
g. High dose/megavitamin	therapy \square			
h. Homeopathy				
i. Hypnosis				
j. Massage				
k. Relaxation				
L. Spiritual healing	П	П	П	

This page will be kept separately from the rest of the pages to ensure confidentiality.

39.	9. Name:			
	Last	First	MI	
40.	SS#:			
41.	Date of Birth: / / Year			
42.	Home Phone: ()			
43.	Work Phone: ()	<u></u>		
44.	Gender: \square Male \square Female			
45.	Current marital status			
46.	MarriedSeparatedDivorcedWidowedSingle, never marriedSingle, living with partner What is the highest level of education that you haveDid not finish high school or receive GEDHigh School degree / GED / or equivalentSome college, no degreeAssociate's degree	completed?		
	Bachelor's degree Master's, doctorate, or professional degree			
47	Current annual household income before tax:			
47.	less than \$20,000 \$20,000 - \$34,999	\$50,000 - \$74,999 \$75,000 - \$99,999 \$100,000 or more		
48.	What is your race/ethnicity (Mark all that apply)			
	 White Black or African American Asian American Indian or Alaska Native Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander Hispanic or Latino Yes No 			
49	e-mail address:			