



# SURVEY OF HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCES OF PATIENTS

### **AMBULATORY CARE 2013**

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 survey booklet. Your answers will help ensure that all veterans receive the high-quality care they have earned and so richly deserve.

Please read each question and check the box that best describes your experience. Please be sure to read all pages of this survey booklet.

The check-box responses you provide to the survey questions will not be connected with you personally but combined with the opinions of other veterans and shared with the VA facility providing your care. However, any additional information which you provide including comments written in the margins, letters, and other enclosures will be shared with the Medical Center Director or appropriate staff at your facility if it is the best way to address your concerns, unless you instruct us not to.

Participation is voluntary and your answers to the survey will not affect the healthcare you receive or your eligibility for VA benefits.

If you have a specific question or need help with your VA care, you may contact the VA as described at the end of this survey booklet.

#### Thank you very much!

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 25 minutes. This includes the time it will take to read instructions, gather the necessary facts and fill out the form. Customer satisfaction surveys are used to gauge customer perceptions of VA services as well as customer expectations and desires. 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.

## \*\*\* YOUR RECENT VISIT TO A VA FACILITY \*\*\*

Our records show that you recently visited the VA facility described below. You will be asked to refer to this information later in the survey:

Version: 33 - 0114

## **SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS**

Answer all the questions by checking the boy to the left of a	your answer. Make sure that your answer is marked inside the
box.	your answer. Wake sure that your answer is marked hiside the
Please use blue or black ink pen, or pencil.	
You are sometimes told to skip over some questions in this that tells you what question to answer next, like this:  ☐ Yes ☐ No → If No, Go to Question 1	survey. When this happens you will see an arrow with a note
You may notice a number on the cover of this survey. This survey.	number is ONLY used to let us know if you returned your
YOUR VA HEALTH CARE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS	5. In the last 12 months, <u>not</u> counting the times you went to an emergency room, how many times did
Please think about all of the healthcare you received from he VA in the last 12 months.	you go to a doctor's office or clinic to get healthcare for yourself?  None
1. In the last 12 months, did you have an illness, injury, or condition that <u>needed care right away</u> in a clinic, emergency room, or doctor's office?	
	□ 4 □ 5 to 9
2. In the last 12 months, when you <u>needed care right</u> away, how often did you get care as soon as you	<ul><li>10 or more</li><li>6. A health provider could be a general doctor, a</li></ul>
thought you needed?  Never Sometimes Usually Always	specialist doctor, a nurse practitioner, a physician assistant, a nurse, or anyone else you would see for health care. In the last 12 months, how often did you and a VA doctor or other health provider talk about specific things you could do to prevent illness?
3. In the last 12 months, <u>not</u> counting the times you needed care right away, did you make any appointments for your healthcare at a doctor's office or clinic?  ☐ Yes	<ul><li>□ Never</li><li>□ Sometimes</li><li>□ Usually</li><li>□ Always</li></ul>
<ul> <li>No → If No, Go to Question 5</li> <li>In the past 12 months, not counting the times you</li> </ul>	7. Choices for your treatment or healthcare can include choices about medicine, surgery, or other
needed care right away, how often did you get an appointment as soon as you thought you needed?	treatment. In the last 12 months, did a VA doctor or other health provider tell you there was more than one choice for your treatment or healthcare?
□ Never	□ Yes
□ Sometimes	□ No → If No, Go to Question 10
<ul><li>□ Usually</li><li>□ Always</li></ul>	

<ul> <li>8. In the last 12 months, did a VA doctor or other health provider talk with you about the pros and cons of each choice for your treatment or healthcare?</li> <li>Definitely Yes</li> <li>Somewhat Yes</li> <li>Somewhat No</li> </ul>	12. In the past 12 months, how often was it easy to get the care, tests or treatment you thought you needed through VA?  □ Never □ Sometimes □ Usually □ Always
☐ Definitely No	YOUR PERSONAL VA
<ul> <li>9. In the last 12 months, when there was more than one choice for your treatment or healthcare, did a VA doctor or other health provider ask which choice was best for you?</li> <li>Definitely Yes</li> <li>Somewhat Yes</li> <li>Somewhat No</li> <li>Definitely No</li> </ul>	DOCTOR OR NURSE  13. A personal doctor or nurse is the one you would see if you need a checkup, want advice about a health problem or get sick or hurt. Do you have a personal VA doctor or nurse?  ☐ Yes ☐ No → If No, Go to Question 21
<ul> <li>10. Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst healthcare possible and 10 is the best healthcare possible, what number would you use to rate all your VA healthcare in the last 12 months?</li> <li>0 Worst healthcare possible</li> <li>1</li> <li>2</li> <li>3</li> <li>4</li> <li>5</li> <li>6</li> <li>7</li> <li>8</li> <li>9</li> <li>10 Best healthcare possible</li> </ul>	14. In the last 12 months, how many times did you visit your personal VA doctor or nurse to get care for yourself?  □ None → If None, Go to Question 20 □ 1 □ 2 □ 3 □ 4 □ 5 to 9 □ 10 or more  15. In the last 12 months, how often did your personal VA doctor or nurse explain things in a way that was easy to understand? □ Never □ Sometimes □ Usually
<ul> <li>11. In the past 12 months, did you try to get any care tests or treatment through VA?</li> <li>□ Yes</li> <li>□ No → If No, Go to Question 13</li> </ul>	Always  16. In the last 12 months, how often did your personal VA doctor or nurse listen carefully to you?  Never Sometimes Usually Always

17. In the last 12 months, how often did you have a hard time speaking with or understanding your	GETTING HEALTH CARE FROM VA SPECIALISTS				
personal VA doctor or nurse because you spoke different languages?  Never Sometimes Usually Always	21. Specialists are doctors like surgeons, heart doctors, allergy doctors, skin doctors, and other doctors who specialize in one area of healthcare. In the last 12 months, did you try to make any appointments to see a VA specialist?  ☐ Yes				
18. In the last 12 months, how often did your personal VA doctor or nurse show respect for what you had to say?  Never Sometimes Usually Always	<ul> <li>□ No → If No, Go to Question 25</li> <li>22. In the last 12 months, how often was it easy to get appointments with VA specialists?</li> <li>□ Never</li> <li>□ Sometimes</li> <li>□ Usually</li> <li>□ Always</li> </ul>				
19. In the last 12 months, how often did your personal VA doctor or nurse spend enough time with you?  Never Sometimes Usually Always  20. Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst personal doctor/nurse possible and 10 is the best personal doctor/nurse possible, what number would you use to rate your personal VA doctor/nurse?  Worst personal doctor/nurse possible  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10 Best personal doctor/nurse possible	23. How many VA specialists have you seen in the last 12 months?  □ None → If None, Go to Question 25 □ 1 VA specialist □ 2 □ 3 □ 4 □ 5 or more VA specialists  24. We want to know your rating of the VA specialist you saw most often in the last 12 months. Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst specialist possible and 10 is the best specialist possible, what number would you use to rate that VA specialist? □ 0 Worst specialist possible □ 1 □ 2 □ 3 □ 4 □ 5 □ 6 □ 7 □ 8 □ 9				
	<ul><li>□ 9</li><li>□ 10 Best specialist possible</li></ul>				

# USING THE VA PHARMACY

25. During the past 3 months, when you were seen at

< <facility name="">&gt;, did you outpatient window to get your profilled?</facility>	•	cy			
<ul> <li>□ Yes</li> <li>□ No → If No, Go to Question</li> <li>□ No pharmacy outpatient windo</li> <li>→ If No outpatient window, Go</li> <li>26. For each part of your VA pharma</li> </ul>	w at this facility to Question 28	ell us the amoun	t of improvemen	nt needed, if any:	
	No Improvement Needed	Slight Improvement Needed	Some Improvement Needed	A lot of Improvement Needed	Does Not Apply
a. The length of time you waited at the VA pharmacy					
b. Questions were answered to your satisfaction by pharmacy staff					
c. The courtesy of the VA pharmacy staff					
d. Personal privacy in the VA pharmacy waiting room					
e. VA pharmacy waiting room comfort & cleanliness					
f. Contacting the VA pharmacy by phone when you have questions about your medication					
g. Contacting your VA healthcare provider when you have questions about your medication					
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			dications or sup mail? Yes	nonths, did you r plies from the V	A pharmacy in

29. Please tell us about the medications or supplies you rec these things happen to you?	eived	from the VA	pharmacy in t	he mail. How	often did
		Never	Sometimes	Usually	Always
a. I received the wrong medication or supplies					
b. The medication or supplies were for another person					
c. The amount of medication or supplies received was too small					
d. The amount of medication or supplies received was too large	)				
e. The package had no medication or supplies					
f. The package was damaged					
g. The medication in the package was too hot					
h. The medication in the package was too cold					
i. There was an unexplained change to the medication or supplies I received	•				
pharmacy services provided through the mail during the past 3 months?  Very satisfied Satisfied Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied Dissatisfied Very dissatisfied	32. On the day of your appointment, ho wait in line to check in?  ☐ No wait ☐ 1 to 10 minutes ☐ 11 to 20 minutes ☐ 21 to 30 minutes ☐ 31 to 60 minutes ☐ More than 1 hour				oointmont
YOUR RECENT VISIT TO A VA FACILITY We realize that you may receive care at more than one VA location. However, it is important that you answer the following questions based on the facility and visit date described on the front cover of this booklet.  31. What was the reason for your recent visit? (You may choose more than one.)  □ Routine physical □ Routine follow-up □ Flare-up of a long-term problem □ Get help with a new problem □ Prescription refill □ Other	33	was schedu  ☐ No wa ☐ 1 to 10 ☐ 11 to 2 ☐ 21 to 3 ☐ 31 to 6	after the time valed to begin di it minutes 00 minutes 00 minutes 00 minutes han 1 hour		

The following questions will help us understand your opinion regarding some characteristics of the VA facility described on the front cover of this booklet:

### 34. How would you rate the following aspects of the examination or treatment room:

		Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Does Not Apply
a.	Cleanliness of the room						
b.	Privacy while in the room						
c.	Noise level						
d.	Sense of safety and security						

### 35. How would you rate the following aspects of the equipment and facilities:

		Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Does Not Apply
a.	Cleanliness of the reception/waiting area						
b.	Cleanliness of the restroom/lavatory						
c.	Availability of parking						
d.	How would you rate the clinic building overall (i.e., attractiveness of facility appearance, quality of building maintenance and upkeep)?						
e.	In terms of your satisfaction, how would you rate the convenience of the location of the clinic facility?						

36.	All things considered, how satisfied were you with the VA during your recent visit?
	Completely setisfied

- ☐ Completely satisfied
- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Completely dissatisfied

### ABOUT COMMUNICATING WITH VA

- 37. Did you have a complaint about how you were treated (medically or personally) during your recent healthcare visit?
  - □ Yes
  - $\square$  No  $\rightarrow$  If No, Go to Question 43

- 38. If you reported this complaint to someone at the VA location where you received your care, to whom did you report this complaint?
  - ☐ Treatment team → Go to Question 40
  - □ Patient advocate → Go to Question 40
  - ☐ Other VA staff → Go to Question 40
  - ☐ Did not report the complaint to a VA employee
- 39. If you did not report this complaint, what was the most important reason you did not report it? (Please mark only one.)
  - I didn't know where to complain
  - ☐ I was afraid of what would happen if I did complain
  - ☐ I thought complaining wouldn't do any
  - I wasn't sure I had the right to complain
  - Other

40.	you to find someone to hear your complaint?	45.	•	ou did not get a flu vaccine in September  3 or later, why not? Mark the MAIN
	□ Very easy □ Easy			Was told I was not eligible to get the flu vaccine this year because of the shortage
	□ Difficult □ Very difficult			Flu vaccine not available and I didn't get it elsewhere
41.	<ul><li>☐ Not applicable</li><li>If you spoke with someone at the VA location</li></ul>			Medical advice not to get a flu shot (such as allergy, illness)
	about a complaint, how satisfied were you			No time/Didn't get around to it
	with the way your complaint was handled?			Inconvenient to get it at the VA
	☐ Very satisfied			Don't like needles/injections
	□ Satisfied			I believe it might make me sick
	☐ Dissatisfied			Don't believe in it/Prefer other methods of
	☐ Very dissatisfied		_	prevention
	□ Not applicable			Did not think I needed a flu shot
42.	How long did it take for the VA location to			Did not want a flu vaccine
	resolve your complaint?			I plan to get my flu vaccine at a later date Other
	☐ Same day			Other
	□ 2–7 days	46.	Who	ere did you get your flu vaccine?
	□ 8–14 days □ 15–21 days			At the VA (such as a hospital, clinic, outreach mobile unit)
	☐ More than 21 days			Vet Center
	<ul><li>□ Complaint is not resolved</li><li>□ Not applicable</li></ul>			Non-VA hospital, clinic, doctor's office, visiting nurse or Health Department
				Community source (drug store, church, grocery store, etc.)
	ABOUT YOU			Other
43.	In general, how would you rate your overall			Do not remember
	health?  Excellent  Very good  Good  Fair  Poor	47.	shot pers shot vacc	Yes
11	Have you had a flu shot since			No Don't know
77.	September 1, 2013?		ш	Doll t know
	□ Yes □ No	48.		you now smoke cigarettes or use tobaccory day, some days, or not at all?
	□ Don't know			Every day
	L Doll t know			Some days
				Not at all → If Not at all, Go to Question 52
				Don't know → If Don't know, Go to Question 52

49.	In the last 12 months, how often were you advised to quit smoking or using tobacco by a VA doctor or other VA health provider?  □ Never □ Sometimes □ Usually □ Always		Has a VA doctor or VA health provider ever discussed with you the risks and benefits of aspirin to prevent heart attack or stroke?  ☐ Yes ☐ No  Are you aware that you have any of the following conditions? Check all that apply.
50.	In the last 12 months, how often was medication recommended or discussed by a VA doctor or VA health provider to assist you with quitting smoking or using tobacco? Examples of medication are: nicotine gum, patch, nasal spray, inhaler, or prescription medication.	56.	<ul> <li>☐ High cholesterol</li> <li>☐ High blood pressure</li> <li>☐ Parent or sibling with heart attack before the age of 60</li> <li>Has a VA doctor ever told you that you have any of the following conditions? Check all</li> </ul>
	<ul><li>□ Never</li><li>□ Sometimes</li><li>□ Usually</li><li>□ Always</li></ul>		that apply.  A heart attack  Angina or coronary heart disease  A stroke  Any kind of diabetes or high blood sugar
51.	In the last 12 months, how often did your VA doctor or VA health provider discuss or provide methods and strategies other than medication to assist you with quitting smoking or using tobacco? Examples of methods and strategies are: telephone helpline, individual or group counseling, or cessation program.  Never Sometimes Usually Always	57.	How often did you have a drink containing alcohol in the past 12 months? Consider a "drink" to be a can or bottle of beer, a glass of wine, a wine cooler, or one cocktail or a shot of hard liquor (like scotch, gin or vodka).  Please mark only one.  □ Never → If Never, Go to Question 61  □ Monthly or less □ 2-4 times a month □ 2-3 times a week
52.	Do you take aspirin daily or every other day?  ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know	58.	☐ 4-5 times a week ☐ 6 or more times a week  How many drinks containing alcohol did you have on a typical day when you were
53.	Do you have a health problem or take medication that makes taking aspirin unsafe for you?  Yes  No Don't know		drinking in the past 12 months?  □ 0 drinks (Did not drink in the past 12 months) → If 0, Go to Question 61  □ 1-2 drinks □ 3-4 drinks □ 5-6 drinks □ 7-9 drinks □ 10 or more drinks

	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	b.	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 time ☐ Yes, all of the time ☐ During the past 4 weeks, have you had any of
00.	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		the following problems with your work or other regular daily activities as a result of any emotional problems (such as feeling depressed or anxious)?
61. a.	□ No  The following two questions are about activities you might do during a typical day. Does your health now limit you in these activities? If so, how much?  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  Climbing several flights of stairs? □ Yes, limited a lot □ Yes, limited a little □ No, not limited at all	а. b.	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 Yes, all of the time No, none of the time Yes, a little of the time Yes, a little of the time Yes, some of the time Yes, some of the time Yes, most of the time Yes, all of the time Yes, all of the time Nes, all of the time
62. a.	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?  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		interfere with your normal work (including both work outside the home and housework)?  Not at all A little bit Moderately Quite a bit Extremely

65.	55. How much of the time during the past 4 weeks:							
		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	
a.	Have you felt calm and peaceful?							
b.	Did you have a lot of energy?							
c.	Have you felt downhearted and blue?							
	6. How much of the time during the past 4 weeks has your physical health or emotional problems interfered with your social activities (like visiting with friends, relatives, etc.)?  All of the time  Some of the time  A little of the time  None of the time  None of the time  Have you been treated by a VA provider for chronic pain in the past 12 months?  Yes			□ 8th § □ Som □ High □ Som □ 4-ye □ Mor  70. Are you □ Yes, □ No,	grade or less the high school of school grade the college or 2 ar college grade than 4-year of Hispanic of Not Hispanic	I, but did not guate or GED 2-year degree aduate college degree or Latino original controls  or Latino or Latino	graduate se <b>gin or descen</b> t	ıt?
68.	<ul> <li>□ No</li> <li>If you have been treated by a Vachronic pain, please rate the effer pain treatment?</li> <li>□ Poor</li> <li>□ Fair</li> <li>□ Good</li> <li>□ Very good</li> <li>□ Excellent</li> </ul>		or your	☐ Bla ☐ As ☐ Na ☐ Ar ☐ En ☐ Sp ☐ Ch	hite ack or African ian tive Hawaiian nerican Indian	n American n or other Pac n or Alaska N	ific Islander ative	

Vietnamese

Some other language (please print):

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: 1-877-222-8387
  - c. 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 http://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:

Department of Veterans Affairs c/o Synovate P.O. Box 806046 Chicago, IL 60680