

Military History Checklist

“Identify, Honor, Serve”



Veterans may have experiences from their military service that present unique needs at the end of life. Because the unique needs of Veterans may require specific interventions, the first step to addressing these issues is to identify them as Veterans. The **Military History Checklist** is available to identify who is a Veteran, evaluate the impact of the experience and determine if there are benefits to which the Veteran and surviving dependents may be entitled.

What is the Military History Checklist?

- A short and simple one page form that can be used by hospice and palliative care staff and easily implemented within your organization.
- A tool which enables hospice staff to identify additional information about patients who are Veterans including branch of service, time of service, combat experience and possible VA benefits.

Why take the time to ask about military service?

- Identifying your patients as Veterans is the first step to honoring them for their service.
- Veterans may have issues related to their military service which their plan of care should address.
- Veterans may be entitled to benefits through VA.
- Hospice Volunteers who are Veterans may be able to provide valuable support to Veterans and their families.

Best Practices

- Use this tool as a **conversation guide** rather than a mandated checklist.
- Ask patients if they have served in the military rather than asking them if they are Veterans.
- Thank patients who have been identified as Veterans for their service with an honoring ceremony.

Successes

- *“Implementation of the military checklist, has given us a great understanding of how to care for the unique needs of our Veterans and their families.”* - Hospice Professional
- *“He was deeply touched when the staff commented on his military history. The recognition and appreciation of his service meant a great deal to him.”* - Family Member
- *“We obtained benefits for a patient who did not know he was eligible for VA benefits.”* - Hospice Professional

Military History Checklist Resources

- [Military History Checklist](#) form
 - One page questionnaire to be added to admission packets or EMRs
- [Military History Checklist Guide](#)
 - Summary of Military History Checklist questions and their implications
- [Military History Checklist Pocket Card for Clinicians](#)
 - Pocket-sized resource to help health care providers initiate conversations with Veterans
- [We Honor Veterans PowerPoint Presentations](#)
 - *Service-related Diseases, Illnesses and Conditions*
 - *Veteran Benefits*
 - *Homeless Veterans*

For more information, visit www.WeHonorVeterans.org or contact Veterans@nhpco.org.