

## PDH Concerns Clinic Visit Guidance

### How to ask the question: “Is your health concern today related to a deployment?”

Focus on chief complaint rather than if patient has **any** PDH complaints

#### Deployment is not necessary for patient to have PDH concerns

- Spouse or child may have concern related to sponsor’s recent deployment
- Patient may have questions about future or past deployments
- Ask this question whether patient is active duty, retired, family member, veteran, deployed or non-deployed

#### How to respond to patients questions

##### 1) “What do you mean?” or “What do you mean, deployment-related?”

Goal is to record patient’s perception of deployment-relatedness not your own

- To help patient answer, ask if patient or a loved one has been deployed.  
If so, is today’s visit related to that deployment

- Review examples of deployment concern or condition (see reverse)

2) “What is deployment?” Avoid narrow definitions of deployment. Offer a few examples (see reverse), and return to the question: “Do you feel your health concern today is related to deployment?”

3) “I don’t know if it is deployment-related” Mark the “maybe” response. Review examples (see reverse)

- When in doubt, always focus on the concern rather than the deployment



# PDH Concerns Clinic Visit Guidance (Side Two)

## Deployment Examples

### Overseas Deployment

- Military liaison and training support
- Humanitarian assistance
- Low-intensity conflict
- Peacekeeping
- Joint or coalition force exercises
- Combat/War

### Within the US

- Fighting forest fires
- Maintaining civil order
- Construction projects
- Providing disaster relief
- Responding to terrorist attack
- Drug interdiction
- Airport security

## Deployment-Related Concern or Condition Examples

- Deployed man twists his ankle; injury persists after returning home
- Post-deployed woman blood-donor expresses concern about donating
- Although not deployed, man is concerned about effects of vaccine
- Spouse complains of rash after washing clothes worn by member while deployed
- While deployed, woman suffers a toxic exposure and later gets sick from it
- Spouse complains that her child is having nightmares since member returned from combat

