

SCREENING FOR TBI IN MILITARY PERSONNEL

SCRTBI_MIL: Screening for TBI in Military Personnel

1. CDE Variable	SCRTBI_MIL: Screening for TBI in Military Personnel
2. CDE Definition	This element will document exposure to possible TBI following military deployment.
3. Recommended instrument for assessment	Structured Interview developed and field-tested by the VA
4. Description of measure	Structured Interview
5. Permissible values	<p>1. During this deployment, did you experience any of the following events?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Blast or explosion (IED, RPG, land mine, grenade, etc.) <input type="radio"/> Vehicular accident/crash (including aircraft) <input type="radio"/> Fragment or bullet wound above your shoulders <input type="radio"/> Fall <input type="radio"/> Other event (f.i. a sports injury to your head) <p>2. Did any of the following happen to you, or were you told happened to you, IMMEDIATELY after any of the events?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Lost consciousness or got "knocked out" <input type="radio"/> Felt dazed, confused, or "saw stars" <input type="radio"/> Didn't remember the event <input type="radio"/> Had a concussion <input type="radio"/> Had a head injury <p>3. Did any of the following problems begin or get worse after the event(s)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Memory problems or lapses <input type="radio"/> Balance problems or dizziness <input type="radio"/> Ringing in the ears <input type="radio"/> Sensitivity to bright light <input type="radio"/> Irritability <input type="radio"/> Headaches <input type="radio"/> Sleep problems <p>4. In the past week, have you had any of the symptoms you indicated?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Memory problems or lapses <input type="radio"/> Balance problems or dizziness <input type="radio"/> Ringing in the ears <input type="radio"/> Sensitivity to bright light <input type="radio"/> Irritability <input type="radio"/> Headaches <input type="radio"/> Sleep problems
6. Classification: Basic/Intermediate/Advanced	Identical
7. Procedure	Individuals returning from military deployment are first asked if they have already been diagnosed as having TBI

	<p>during deployment. If they answer yes, they are offered further evaluation/assistance and are not asked the subsequent screening questions. If they answer no, they are asked one or more of the four TBI screening questions in order until an answer of "No" is given, at which point the screen is terminated: If all questions are answered yes then they are asked if they would like to be referred for an evaluation.</p>
<p>8. Comments/Special instructions: This interview is intended for use in military personnel who are not known to have suffered a TBI.</p>	
<p>9. Rationale/justification: About 10 to 20% of returning troops from OEF/OIF screen positive for probable TBI in recent studies (Hoge et al, 2008; Schell & Marshall, 2008; Vasterling et al, 2006). Screening for TBI in military personnel returning from military deployment is therefore highly relevant and in the interest of both the individual (personal health) and the military service in general (prevention and support).</p>	
<p>10. References: <i>Hoge CW, McGurk D, Thomas JL, et al.</i> Mild traumatic brain injury in U.S. Soldiers returning from Iraq. <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>. Jan 2008; 358(5): 453-63. <i>Vasterling JJ, Proctor SP, Amoroso P, Kane R, Heeren T, White RF.</i> Neuropsychological outcomes of Army personnel following deployment to the Iraq war. <i>Journal of the American Medical Association</i>. 2006; 296(5): 519-529. <i>Schell TL, Marshall GN.</i> Survey of Individuals Previously Deployed for OEF/OIF. In Tanidian T and Jaycox LH (Eds.) <i>Invisible Wounds of War: Psychological and Cognitive Injuries, Their Consequences, and Services to Assist Recovery</i>. Santa Monica, CA, Rand Corporation, 2008, 87-115.</p>	