

**CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE FOR
POST-DEPLOYMENT HEALTH
EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT**

DRAFT VERSION 1.0

Department of Defense
Veterans Health Administration

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PREFACE	iv
INTRODUCTION	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xi
ALGORITHM AND ANNOTATIONS	
ALGORITHM	1
A. DoD/VHA Health Care Beneficiary with Health Concern	4
B. Ascertain Chief Complaint/Concern, Obtain Brief History On Current Illness, Review History of Deployment, and Address Acute Health Problems	5
C. Has the Patient Been Deployed?	5
D. Reinforce Partnership with the Patient Addressing Deployment Concern(s)	6
E. Research Deployment Issues	7
F. Is the Patient's Problem/Concern Deployment Related?	8
G. Identify/Update Deployment Related Problem From the Medical Record, History, Physical Exam, Laboratory Tests, and Psychosocial Assessment	8
H. Does the Patient Present Signs or Symptoms?	10
I. Does the Patient Present a Recognized Illness or Injury?	11
J. Obtain Ancillary Studies as Indicated	11
K. Asymptomatic Patient with Health Concern	11
L. Provide Reassurance and Patient Health Education	12
M. Does the Patient's Concern Persist?	14
N. Reevaluate/Consider Consultation	15
O. Follow-Up as Indicated	15
P. Patient with Health Concern and No Diagnosis Established	16
Q. Reevaluate Patient Data and Collaborate with Colleague	18
R. Discuss Issues with Patient, Provide Reassurance, and Reinforce Patient-Clinician Partnership	18
S. Does the Patient Present Acute or Progressive Symptoms?	19

	Page
T. Perform Additional Ancillary Studies as Indicated	20
U. Can (Has) a Diagnosis Be (Been) Established?	23
V. Is Systemic Disease Suspected?	23
W. Consider Consulting a Specialist	24
X. Does the Patient Present Localized Symptoms or Signs?	24
XX. Acute Unexplained Symptoms or Signs/ Multiple Chronic Unexplained Physical Symptoms	24
Y. Discuss Issues with Patient, Provide Reassurance and Education, and Reinforce Patient-Clinician Partnership	26
Z. Follow-Up—Monitor Changes in Patient Status	28
AA. Provide Patient Education	30
BB. Are There Indications for Collaboration with a Deployment Health Center (DHC)?	31
CC. Establish Contact and Collaborate with a DHC	31
DD. Follow-Up as Indicated	32

APPENDICES

A. <i>LIST OF PARTICIPANTS</i>	<i>A-1</i>
B. <i>THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, COMPREHENSIVE CLINICAL EVALUATION PROGRAM AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS HEALTH AFFAIRS, GULF WAR HEALTH EXAMINATION REGISTRY</i>	<i>B-1</i>
C. <i>STANDARD HEALTH ASSESSMENT TOOLS</i>	
<i>Brief Patient Health Questionnaire™ (PHQ-Brief)</i>	<i>C-1</i>
<i>Patient Health Questionnaire™ (PHQ)</i>	<i>C-3</i>
<i>Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) CheckList – Civilian Version (PCL-C)</i>	<i>C-7</i>
<i>PTSD CheckList – Military Version (PCL-M)</i>	<i>C-8</i>
<i>PTSD CheckList – Stress Specific Version (PCL-S)</i>	<i>C-9</i>
<i>The Short Form Health Survey 12 Item™ (SF-12)</i>	<i>C-10</i>
<i>The Short Form Health Survey 36 Item™ (SF-36)</i>	<i>C-12</i>
<i>Sleep Disorder Questionnaire</i>	<i>C-16</i>
D. <i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i>	<i>D-1</i>
E. <i>ACRONYMS</i>	<i>E-1</i>

TABLES

Number	Title	Page
I	Evidence Grading Table	ix
II	Symptom-Specific Examinations	21
III	Types and Frequency of Physical Symptoms Among Outpatients	27