OMB Approved No. 2900-0781
Respondent Burden: 15 Minutes
Expiration Date: 12/31/2022

Department of Veterans Affairs

HERNIAS (INCLUDING ABDOMINAL, INGUINAL AND FEMORAL HERNIAS) DISABILITY BENEFITS QUESTIONNAIRE

IMPORTANT- THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) ***WILL NOT PAY*** OR ***REIMBURSE*** ANY EXPENSES OR COST INCURRED IN THE PROCESS OF COMPLETING AND/OR SUBMITTING THIS FORM. PLEASE READ THE PRIVACY ACT AND RESPONDENT BURDEN BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM.

NAME OF PATIENT/VETERAN

PATIENT/VETERAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

NOTE TO PHYSICIAN - Your patient is applying to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for disability benefits. VA will consider the information you provide on this questionnaire as part of their evaluation in processing the veteran's claim. VA reserves the right to confirm the authenticity of ALL DBQs completed by private health care providers.

SECTION I - DIAGNOSIS

1A. DOES THE VETERAN NOW HAVE OR HAS HE OR SHE EVER HAD ANY HERNIA CONDITIONS? *(This is the condition the veteran is claiming or for which an exam has been requested)*

☐ YES ☐ NO *(If "Yes," complete Item 1B)*

NOTE: These are the diagnoses determined during this current evaluation of the claimed condition(s) listed above. If there is no diagnosis, if the diagnosis is different from a previous diagnosis for this condition, or if there is a diagnosis of a complication due to the claimed condition, explain your findings and reasons in the "Remarks" section. Date of diagnosis can be the date of the evaluation if the clinician is making the initial diagnosis, or an appropriate date determined through record review or reported history.

1B. SELECT THE VETERAN'S CONDITION *(Check all that apply)*:

☐ INGUINAL HERNIA *(If checked, complete Section IV.1)* ICD code: _____ Date of diagnosis: _____

☐ FEMORAL HERNIA *(If checked, complete Section IV.2)* ICD code: _____ Date of diagnosis: _____

☐ VENTRAL HERNIA *(If checked, complete Section IV.3)* ICD code: _____ Date of diagnosis: _____

☐ OTHER *(Specify)*:

OTHER DIAGNOSIS #1:

_____ ICD code: _____ Date of diagnosis: _____

OTHER DIAGNOSIS #2:

_____ ICD code: _____ Date of diagnosis: _____

1C. IF THERE ARE ADDITIONAL DIAGNOSES THAT PERTAIN TO INGUINAL, FEMORAL OR VENTRAL HERNIAS, LIST USING ABOVE FORMAT:

SECTION II - MEDICAL RECORD REVIEW

2. INDICATE MEDICAL RECORDS REVIEWED IN PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT:

☐ C-FILE (VA ONLY)

☐ OTHER, DESCRIBE: _____

SECTION III - MEDICAL HISTORY

3A. DESCRIBE THE HISTORY *(including onset and course)* OF THE VETERAN'S HERNIA CONDITIONS *(brief summary)*:

3B. IS CONTINUOUS MEDICATION REQUIRED FOR CONTROL OF THE VETERAN'S HERNIA CONDITIONS?

☐ YES ☐ NO *(If "Yes," list only those medications required for the veteran's hernia conditions)*

SECTION IV - HERNIA CONDITIONS

1. INGUINAL HERNIA

A. SURGICAL STATUS *(check all that apply)*:

☐ Surgery performed *(If "Yes," indicate side, date and type of surgery)*:

☐ Right: Date and type of surgery: _____ _____

☐ Left: Date and type of surgery: _____ _____

☐ No previous surgery but hernia appears operable and remediable *(If checked, indicate side)*: ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

☐ Irremediable, provide reason: _____ *(If checked, indicate side)*: ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

☐ Inoperable, provide reason: _____ *(If checked, indicate side)*: ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

☐ Recurrent hernia following surgical repair *(If checked, indicate status of postoperative recurrent hernia)*:

☐ Recurrent hernia appears operable and remediable *(If checked, indicate side)*: ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

☐ Irremediable, provide reason: _____ *(If checked, indicate side)*: ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

☐ Inoperable, provide reason: _____ *(If checked, indicate side)*: ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

B. EXAM

Right: ☐ No hernia detected ☐ No true hernia protrusion ☐ Small hernia ☐ Large hernia

Left: ☐ No hernia detected ☐ No true hernia protrusion ☐ Small hernia ☐ Large hernia

C. ABILITY TO BE REDUCED

Right: ☐ Readily reducible ☐ Not readily reducible

Left: ☐ Readily reducible ☐ Not readily reducible

PATIENT/VETERAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER ☐☐☐ – ☐☐ – ☐☐☐☐

SECTION IV - HERNIA CONDITIONS *(Continued)*

D. INDICATION FOR SUPPORT *(Is there an indication for a supporting belt?)*

☐ YES ☐ NO *(If "Yes," can the hernia be supported by truss or belt?):*

☐ Yes, can be well supported by truss or belt *(If checked, indicate side well supported):* ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

☐ Not well supported by truss or belt *(If checked, indicate side not well supported):* ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

☐ N/A, no truss or belt tried or used

2. FEMORAL HERNIA

A. SURGICAL STATUS *(check all that apply):*

☐ Surgery performed *(If "Yes," indicate side, date and type of surgery):*

☐ Right: Date and type of surgery: _____ _____

☐ Left: Date and type of surgery: _____ _____

☐ No previous surgery but hernia appears operable and remediable *(If checked, indicate side):* ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

☐ Irremediable, provide reason: _____ *(If checked, indicate side):* ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

☐ Inoperable, provide reason: _____ *(If checked, indicate side):* ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

☐ Recurrent hernia following surgical repair *(If checked, indicate status of postoperative recurrent hernia):*

☐ Recurrent hernia appears operable and remediable *(If checked, indicate side):* ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

☐ Irremediable, provide reason: _____ *(If checked, indicate side):* ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

☐ Inoperable, provide reason: _____ *(If checked, indicate side):* ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

B. EXAM

Left: ☐ No hernia detected ☐ No true hernia protrusion ☐ Small hernia ☐ Large hernia

Right: ☐ No hernia detected ☐ No true hernia protrusion ☐ Small hernia ☐ Large hernia

C. ABILITY TO BE REDUCED

Right: ☐ Readily reducible ☐ Not readily reducible

Left: ☐ Readily reducible ☐ Not readily reducible

D. INDICATION FOR SUPPORT *(Is there an indication for a supporting belt?)*

☐ YES ☐ NO *(If "Yes," can the hernia be supported by truss or belt?):*

☐ Yes, can be well supported by truss or belt *(If checked, indicate side well supported):* ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

☐ Not well supported by truss or belt *(If checked, indicate side not well supported):* ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

☐ N/A, no truss or belt tried or used

3. VENTRAL HERNIA

A. SURGICAL STATUS *(check all that apply):*

☐ Surgery performed *(If "Yes," indicate date and type of surgery):*

Date and type of surgery: _____ _____

☐ No previous surgery but hernia appears operable and remediable

☐ Irremediable, provide reason: _____

☐ Inoperable, provide reason: _____

☐ Recurrent hernia following surgical repair *(If checked, indicate status of postoperative recurrent hernia):*

☐ Recurrent hernia appears operable and remediable *(If checked, indicate side):* ☐ Right: ☐ Left:

☐ Irremediable, provide reason: _____

☐ Inoperable, provide reason: _____

B. EXAM *(check all that apply):*

☐ No hernia detected

☐ Healed postoperative ventral hernia repair

☐ Healed postoperative wounds with weakening of abdominal wall

☐ Small ventral hernia

☐ Large ventral hernia

☐ Massive, persistent, severe diastasis of recti muscles

☐ Extensive diffuse destruction or weakening of muscular and fascial support of abdominal wall so as to be inoperable

☐ Other, describe: _____

C. INDICATION FOR SUPPORT *(Is there an indication for a supporting belt?)*

☐ YES ☐ NO *(If "Yes," can the hernia be supported by truss or belt?):*

☐ Yes, can be well supported by truss or belt

☐ Not well supported by truss or belt

☐ N/A, no truss or belt tried or used

PATIENT/VETERAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER ☐☐☐ – ☐☐ – ☐☐☐☐

SECTION V - OTHER PERTINENT PHYSICAL FINDINGS, SCARS, COMPLICATIONS, CONDITIONS, SIGNS AND/OR SYMPTOMS

5A. DOES THE VETERAN HAVE ANY SCARS *(surgical or otherwise)* RELATED TO ANY CONDITIONS OR TO THE TREATMENT OF ANY CONDITIONS LISTED IN THE DIAGNOSIS SECTION?

☐ YES ☐ NO

IF "YES," ARE ANY OF THESE SCARS PAINFUL AND/OR UNSTABLE; HAVE A TOTAL AREA EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 39 SQUARE CM 6 square inches); OR ARE LOCATED ON THE HEAD, FACE, OR NECK?

☐ YES ☐ NO

IF "YES," ALSO COMPLETE VA FORM 21-0960F-1, *SCARS/DISFIGUREMENT DISABILITY BENEFITS QUESTIONNAIRE (DBQ)*.

IF "NO," PROVIDE LOCATION AND MEASUREMENTS OF SCAR IN CENTIMETERS.

LOCATION:_____ MEASUREMENTS: Length_____ cm X width _____ cm.

NOTE: An "unstable scar" is one where, for any reason, there is frequent loss of covering of the skin over the scar. If there are multiple scars, enter additional locations and measurements in the "Remarks" section. It is not necessary to also complete a Scars/Disfigurement DBQ.

5B. DOES THE VETERAN HAVE ANY OTHER PERTINENT PHYSICAL FINDINGS, COMPLICATIONS, CONDITIONS, SIGNS AND/OR SYMPTOMS RELATED TO ANY CONDITIONS LISTED IN SECTION I, DIAGNOSIS?

☐ YES ☐ NO *(If "Yes," describe - brief summary):*

SECTION VI - DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

NOTE - If testing has been performed and reflects veteran's current condition, repeat testing is not required. Specific diagnostic testing is not required for hernia examination.

6. ARE THERE ANY SIGNIFICANT DIAGNOSTIC TEST FINDINGS AND/OR RESULTS?

☐ YES ☐ NO *(If "Yes," provide type of test or procedure, date and results - brief summary):*

SECTION VII - FUNCTIONAL IMPACT

7. DOES THE VETERAN'S HERNIA CONDITION(S) IMPACT HIS OR HER ABILITY TO WORK?

☐ YES ☐ NO *(If "Yes," describe the impact of each of the veteran's hernia condition(s), providing one or more examples):*

SECTION VIII - REMARKS

8. REMARKS *(If any):*

SECTION IX - PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

CERTIFICATION - To the best of my knowledge, the information contained herein is accurate, complete and current.

9A. PHYSICIAN'S SIGNATURE	9B. PHYSICIAN'S PRINTED NAME	9C. DATE SIGNED

9D. PHYSICIAN'S PHONE/FAX NUMBERS	9E. NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER (NPI) NUMBER	9F. PHYSICIAN'S ADDRESS

NOTE - VA may request additional medical information, including additional examinations, if necessary to complete VA's review of the veteran's application.

IMPORTANT - Physician please fax the completed form to: _____

(VA Regional Office FAX No.)

NOTE - A list of VA Regional Office FAX Numbers can be found at **www.benefits.va.gov/disabilityexams** or obtained by calling 1-800-827-1000.

PRIVACY ACT NOTICE: VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than what has been authorized under the Privacy Act of 1974 or Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations 1.576 for routine uses (i.e., civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration) as identified in the VA system of records, 58/VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. Your obligation to respond is voluntary. VA uses your SSN to identify your claim file. Providing your SSN will help ensure that your records are properly associated with your claim file. Giving us your SSN account information is voluntary. Refusal to provide your SSN by itself will not result in the denial of benefits. VA will not deny an individual benefits for refusing to provide his or her SSN unless the disclosure of the SSN is required by a Federal Statute of law in effect prior to January 1, 1975, and still in effect. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies.

RESPONDENT BURDEN: We need this information to determine entitlement to benefits (38 U.S.C. 501). Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 15 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete the form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at **www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain**. If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.