### SCREENING FOR TBI IN MILITARY PERSONNEL

**SCRTBI_MIL: Screening for TBI in Military Personnel**

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<th>1. CDE Variable</th>
<th>SCRTBI_MIL: Screening for TBI in Military Personnel</th>
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<td>2. CDE Definition</td>
<td>This element will document exposure to possible TBI following military deployment.</td>
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<td>3. Recommended instrument for assessment</td>
<td>Structured Interview developed and field-tested by the VA</td>
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<td>4. Description of measure</td>
<td>Structured Interview</td>
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| 5. Permissible values | 1. During this deployment, did you experience any of the following events?  
   - Blast or explosion (IED, RPG, land mine, grenade, etc.)  
   - Vehicular accident/crash (including aircraft)  
   - Fragment or bullet wound above your shoulders  
   - Fall  
   - Other event (f.i. a sports injury to your head)  

   2. Did any of the following happen to you, or were you told happened to you, IMMEDIATELY after any of the events?  
   - Lost consciousness or got "knocked out"  
   - Felt dazed, confused, or "saw stars"  
   - Didn't remember the event  
   - Had a concussion  
   - Had a head injury  

   3. Did any of the following problems begin or get worse after the event(s)?  
   - Memory problems or lapses  
   - Balance problems or dizziness  
   - Ringing in the ears  
   - Sensitivity to bright light  
   - Irritability  
   - Headaches  
   - Sleep problems  

   4. In the past week, have you had any of the symptoms you indicated?  
   - Memory problems or lapses  
   - Balance problems or dizziness  
   - Ringing in the ears  
   - Sensitivity to bright light  
   - Irritability  
   - Headaches  
   - 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 |
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.

8. Comments/Special instructions:
This interview is intended for use in military personnel who are not known to have suffered a TBI.

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).

10. References:
