



**NON-ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASE (INCLUDING ARRHYTHMIAS AND SURGERY)  
DISABILITY BENEFITS QUESTIONNAIRE**

**NOTE** - For coronary artery disease, myocardial infarction, or hypertensive disease, complete VA Form 21-0960A-1, Ischemic Heart Disease 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 INFORMATION BEFORE COMPLETING 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.

**SECTION I - DIAGNOSIS**

1A. DOES THE VETERAN NOW HAVE A NON-ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASE, ARRHYTHMIA, OR UNDERGONE CARDIAC SURGERY?

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

1B. Provide only diagnoses that pertain to cardiac conditions:

DIAGNOSIS # 1 -	ICD CODE -	DATE OF DIAGNOSIS -
DIAGNOSIS # 2 -	ICD CODE -	DATE OF DIAGNOSIS -
DIAGNOSIS # 3 -	ICD CODE -	DATE OF DIAGNOSIS -

1C. IF ADDITIONAL DIAGNOSES THAT PERTAIN TO CARDIAC CONDITIONS, LIST USING ABOVE FORMAT

**SECTION II - MEDICAL HISTORY**

2A. DOES THE VETERAN HAVE HEART DISEASE?

YES  NO

(If, "Yes," check all that apply):

Diseases of the heart (check all that apply)

Valvular heart disease  Rheumatic heart disease  Endocarditis

(If, checked, is there active infection with valvular heart damage?)

YES  NO

(If, "Yes," is the veteran currently undergoing therapy (treatment) for heart valve infection?)

YES  NO

(If, "No," provide date therapy ceased): \_\_\_\_\_

(If, therapy ceased more than 3 months ago, is there any residual valvular heart disease?)

YES  NO

2B. DOES THE VETERAN HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS?

Pericarditis  Pericardial adhesions

(If, checked, is there active disease with pericardial involvement?) (Does this CFR category include inflammatory pericarditis?)

YES  NO

(If, "Yes," is the veteran currently undergoing therapy?)

YES  NO

(If, "No," provide date therapy ceased): \_\_\_\_\_

Syphilitic heart disease (Note - If syphilitic aortic aneurysm is present, complete VA Form 21-0960A-2, Artery and Vein Conditions Disability Benefits Questionnaire)

2C. DESCRIBE CAUSE/ONSET OF THE VETERAN'S HEART CONDITION (brief summary):

**SECTION II - MEDICAL HISTORY (Continued)**

2D. DOES THE VETERAN HAVE A CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIA?

YES  NO

(If, "Yes," check all that apply):

- |   |                  |                          |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Atrioventricular block (II and III degree) | ICD CODE : _____ | DATE OF DIAGNOSIS: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hyperthyroid heart disease                 | ICD CODE : _____ | DATE OF DIAGNOSIS: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supraventricular arrhythmias               | ICD CODE : _____ | DATE OF DIAGNOSIS: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ventricular arrhythmias (sustained)        | ICD CODE : _____ | DATE OF DIAGNOSIS: _____ |

(If, checked, has the veteran been admitted to a hospital?)

YES  NO

(If, "Yes," provide date of most recent admission): \_\_\_\_\_

- Other cardiac arrhythmias (specify diagnoses): \_\_\_\_\_ ICD CODE : \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF DIAGNOSIS: \_\_\_\_\_

2E. HAS THE VETERAN UNDERGONE CARDIAC SURGERY(IES)?

YES  NO

(If, "Yes," check all that apply):

- |  |                  |                        |
|--|------------------|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heart valve replacement (prosthesis)  | ICD CODE : _____ | DATE OF SURGERY: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coronary bypass surgery               | ICD CODE : _____ | DATE OF SURGERY: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Implantable cardiac pacemakers        | ICD CODE : _____ | DATE OF SURGERY: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transplant, cardiac                   | ICD CODE : _____ | DATE OF SURGERY: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other cardiac surgery(ies) (specify): | ICD CODE : _____ | DATE OF SURGERY: _____ |

**SECTION III - MEDICAL HISTORY TREATMENT**

3A. DOES THE VETERAN'S TREATMENT PLAN INCLUDE TAKING CONTINUOUS MEDICATION FOR THE DIAGNOSED CONDITION?

YES  NO

(If, "Yes," list medications):

3B. IS THERE A HISTORY OF:

- |   |  |                                |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | Treatment facility/date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Myocardial infarction                    | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | Treatment facility/date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coronary bypass surgery                  | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | Treatment facility/date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heart transplant                         | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | Treatment facility/date: _____ |

(If, "Yes," what condition(s) resulted in the heart transplant): \_\_\_\_\_

- implanted cardiac pacemaker  YES  NO

(If, "Yes," what condition(s) resulted in the need for a cardiac pacemaker): \_\_\_\_\_

- implanted automatic implantable cardioverter defibrillator (AICD)  YES  NO

(If, "Yes," what condition(s) resulted in the need for a automatic implantable cardioverter): \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION IV - CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE (CHF)**

4A. DOES THE VETERAN HAVE CHF?

YES  NO

4B. IS THE VETERAN'S CHF CHRONIC?

YES  NO

4C. IF THE VETERAN'S CHF IS NOT CHRONIC, HAS THE VETERAN HAD MORE THAN ONE EPISODE OF ACUTE CHF IN THE PAST YEAR?

YES  NO

(If, "Yes," provide the treatment facility and date of the most recent episode of CHF):

**SECTION V - CARDIAC FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT**

5A. HAS A DIAGNOSTIC EXERCISE TEST BEEN CONDUCTED?

YES  NO

(If "Yes," provide level of METs the veteran can perform as shown by the most recent diagnostic exercise testing): \_\_\_\_\_

(Date of most recent diagnostic exercise test): \_\_\_\_\_

(If "No," complete Item 5B)

5B. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING METs TEST BASED ON THE VETERAN'S RESPONSES:

(Lowest level of activity at which the veteran reports symptoms (check all symptoms that apply)):

Dyspnea  Fatigue  Angina  Dizziness  Syncope

(1-3 METs) This METs level has been found to be consistent with activities such as eating, dressing, taking a shower, slow walking (2 mph) for 1-2 blocks

(>3-5 METs) This METs level has been found to be consistent with activities such as light yard work (weeding), mowing lawn (power mower), brisk walking (4 mph)

(>5-7 METs) This METs level has been found to be consistent with activities such as walking 1 flight of stairs, golfing (without cart), mowing lawn (push mower), heavy yard work (digging)

(>7-10 METs) This METs level has been found to be consistent with activities such as climbing stairs quickly, moderate bicycling, sawing wood, jogging (6 mph)

The veteran denies experiencing above symptoms with any level of physical activity

**SECTION VI - DIAGNOSTIC TESTING**

**NOTE** - Determination of cardiac hypertrophy/dilatation is required; the suggested order of testing for cardiac hypertrophy/dilatation is EKG, then chest x-ray (PA and lateral), then echocardiogram. Echocardiogram is only necessary if the other two tests are negative. A limited echocardiogram, if available is appropriate to determine if cardiac hypertrophy/dilatation is present by measuring only left ventricular dimension, wall thickness and ejection fraction.

6A. IS THERE EVIDENCE OF CARDIAC HYPERTROPHY OR DILATATION?

YES  NO

6B. DIAGNOSTIC TEST (provide most recent test only):

EKG Date of EKG: \_\_\_\_\_

Chest x-ray Date of CXR: \_\_\_\_\_

Echocardiogram Date of echocardiogram: \_\_\_\_\_

Holter monitor?  
 YES  NO

Other study (specify): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

LEFT VENTRICULAR EJECTION FRACTION (LVEF), if known: \_\_\_\_\_ % Date of test: \_\_\_\_\_

6C. IS ATRIAL FIBRILLATION PRESENT?

YES  NO

(If "Yes," check all that apply)

Is it paroxysmal atrial fibrillation or other supraventricular tachycardia?

YES  NO

Is it permanent atrial fibrillation?

YES  NO

Is the frequency more than 4 episodes per year?

YES  NO

Is the frequency 4 or less episodes per year?

YES  NO

Has the frequency been documented by a Holter monitor?

YES  NO

Has the frequency been documented by an electrocardiogram?

YES  NO

**SECTION VII - FUNCTIONAL IMPACT AND REMARKS**

7. DOES THE VETERAN'S HEART DISEASE IMPACT HIS OR HER ABILITY TO WORK?

YES     NO    *(If "Yes," describe impact, providing one or more examples)*

8. REMARKS *(If any)*

**SECTION VIII - 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 NUMBER	9E. PHYSICIAN'S MEDICAL LICENSE 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.vba.va.gov/disabilityexams](http://www.vba.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 required to obtain or retain benefits. 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 30 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](http://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.