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| Australian Government crest, Department of Veterans' Affairs branding | Neurological Function  Medical Impairment Assessment | | | | | | |
| Veteran | | | | |  | UIN | | |
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|  | | | | |  |  | | |
| Please assess the following conditions: | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | |  |  |

**Where the veteran experiences a fluctuating course or variable presentations of these conditions, select the rating, which reflects the average level of impairment.**

1. Please select the most accurate description of any impairment of **memory.**

| **Description** | **Select One** |
| --- | --- |
| Memory is **similar to that of peers.** |  |
| **Mild but demonstrable** impairment:  - Misplaces objects (more than normal).  - Increased difficulty in remembering names and appointments.  - Can learn, although at a slower rate than previously. |  |
| **Moderate** impairment:  - Has frequent difficulty in recalling details of recent experiences.  - Frequently misplaces objects.  - Fails to follow through with intentions or obligations.  - Tends to get lost more easily in unfamiliar areas. |  |
| **Significant** impairment:  - Symptoms as above, but more frequent and severe. |  |
| **Severe** memory deficiency:   * Unable to retain any information about recent experiences. * New learning is not possible after attention has been directed elsewhere. * Extreme difficulty in keeping track of finances, scheduled activities, social relationships etc. |  |
| **Gross** **amnesic** syndrome:  - Unable to acquire or recall new information.  - Unable to recognise family, own reflection in mirror etc.  - Is disoriented in familiar surroundings. |  |

1. Please select the most accurate description of the **compensatory mechanisms and the need for support** because of memory impairment**.**

| **Description** | **Select One** |
| --- | --- |
| **Independent** - written notes and other similar methods may be used in the manner of busy people of all ages. |  |
| **Little impact on everyday activity** because of compensation through reliance on written notes, schedules, checklists and partner. |  |
| Compensation through **use of aids**, e.g. lists and diaries, is adequate. |  |
| Partially able to compensate, but unable to function with complete independence, and **needs some supervision.** |  |
| **Unable to work or live independently**, needing supervision to avoid harm, e.g. from fire caused by forgetting to put out cigarettes or to turn off appliances. |  |
| **Constant supervision** and care required. |  |

1. Please select the most accurate description of any impairment of **reasoning and problem solving**.

| **Description** | **Select One** |
| --- | --- |
| Reasoning is **comparable to that of peers.** |  |
| **Mild** impairment:  - Appropriate use is made of accumulated knowledge.  - Reasonable judgement is shown in routine activities most of the time.  - Difficulties are apparent in new circumstances. |  |
| **Moderate** impairment:  - Relies on accumulated knowledge when faced with problem solving.  - Suffers significant disadvantage in circumstances requiring complex decision-making or non-routine activities, i.e. when past decision-making is not directly relevant.  - Reduced initiative, spontaneity and capacity for abstract thinking. |  |
| **Significant** impairment:  - Symptoms as above, but more frequent and severe. |  |
| **Severe** impairment:  - Difficulty in carrying out basic activities such as sequencing the steps needed for dressing and for preparing meals.  - Planning / organisational ability reduced.  - Shows markedly reduced initiative and spontaneity, and / or preservative thinking. |  |
| **Gross** impairment:  - Unable to initiate and sustain activities without supervision.  - Unable to plan a course of action for the simplest activity. |  |

1. Please select the most accurate description of the **compensatory mechanisms and the need for support** because of impairment of reasoning and problem solving**.**

| **Description** | **Select One** |
| --- | --- |
| **Independent** - no aids or supports required. |  |
| Little impact on everyday activity because of compensation through **reliance on written notes, schedules, checklists and partner.** |  |
| Partially able to compensate, but unable to function with complete independence and **needs some supervision.** |  |
| **Unable to function independently** in new or complex situations. |  |
| **Supervision and prompting are required for virtually all daily activity.** |  |

1. Please select the most accurate description of **comprehension of written material**.

Do **not** include impairment due to visual loss.

| **Description** | **Select One** |
| --- | --- |
| **Normal or almost normal.** |  |
| **Mild** dyslexia:  - Is able to grasp the basic meaning of written newspaper and magazine articles but has difficulty understanding the detail.  - Is unable to follow the storyline in books. |  |
| **Moderate** dyslexia:  - Reading comprehension is limited to sentences and short paragraphs.  - Can follow simple two to three line instructions, and cope with shopping (and other) lists, but nothing more complex. |  |
| **Severe** dyslexia:  - Able to read single words, and match words to pictures.  - Able to read simple labels and signs.  - Unable to read instructions. |  |
| **Gross** impairment:  - Unable to understand simple instructions or yes/no questions, even with gestures.  - Unable to read single words, labels or signs. |  |

1. Please select the most accurate description of **comprehension of speech and conversation**.

Do **not** include impairment due to hearing loss.

| **Description** | **Select One** |
| --- | --- |
| **Normal or almost normal.** |  |
| **Minor** impairment:  - Can understand movies, radio programs or group discussions, but with some difficulty.  - Comprehension is usually in most situations, but understanding is difficult in large groups, or when tired or upset.  - Difficulty coping with rapid changes of topic. |  |
| **Mild** impairment:  - Can understand speech face to face, but confusion or fatigue occurs rapidly in any group.  - Unable to cope with rapid change in topic or with complex topics.  - Able to grasp the meaning of TV serials but not more complex ideas. |  |
| **Moderate** impairment:  - Can understand only simple sentences.  - Can follow simple conversations when some points are repeated. |  |
| **Severe** impairment:  - Can understand only single words.  - Shows some understanding of slowly spoken simple sentences from context and gestures, although frequent repetition is needed. |  |
| **Gross** impairment:  - Unable to understand simple instructions or yes/no questions, even with gestures. |  |

1. Please select the most accurate description of capacity for **written expression**.

Do **not** include impairment due to physical conditions.

| **Description** | **Select One** |
| --- | --- |
| **Normal or almost normal.** |  |
| **Mild Dysgraphia**: Unable to cope with more than short letters (about five lines) or postcards, which show both grammatical and spelling error. |  |
| **Moderate Dysgraphia**: Unable to write more than short sentences, which include frequent spelling errors, e.g. has difficulty filling in bank forms. |  |
| **Severe Dysgraphia**: Able to write only some recognisable words, e.g. items for a shopping list, or names of family. |  |
| **Gross Agraphia**: No functional writing ability, although is able to copy or write much-practiced sequences, such as own name. |  |

1. Please select the most accurate description of any difficulty with **expression by speech** because of alteration to **vocal intensity and quality**.

| **Description** | **Select One** |
| --- | --- |
| **Normal or almost normal.** |  |
| **Minor**: Sufficient intensity and quality for **most** needs of everyday speech.  - Normal speech, but unable to shout, or permanently hoarse.  - Needs to repeat self at times.  - Unable to produce some phonetic units. |  |
| **Mild**: Sufficient intensity and quality for **many** everyday needs.  - Adequate with low background noise, but is heard with some difficulty in vehicles or public places.  - Many inaccuracies but easily understood by strangers.  - Slow or discontinuous, conveying the distinct impression of difficulty. |  |
| **Moderate**: Sufficient intensity and quality for **some** everyday needs.  - Adequate under quiet conditions but is heard with great difficulty against any background noise, voice fades rapidly.  - Understood by family and friend but it is difficult for strangers.  - Needs frequent repetition.  - Speech is sustained for short periods only: fatigues rapidly. |  |
| **Severe**: Sufficient intensity and quality for **only a few** everyday needs.  - Reduced to a whisper at best, inaudible over the telephone.  - Can produce only a few phonetic units approximating some words but these are not intelligible if the context is unknown.  - Can produce only short phrases or single words, speech flow is not maintained or is too slow to be useful. |  |
| **Gross** impairment:  - No speech production, but able to use non-verbal means of expression. |  |

1. Please select the most accurate description of any difficulty with **expression by speech** because of limitations in the **content of speech**.

| **Description** | **Select One** |
| --- | --- |
| **Normal or almost normal.** |  |
| Speech is sustained over a 10-minute period, but with difficulty that includes **hesitation and word retrieval** problems. |  |
| Converses in simple sentences on familiar topics, **word-finding problems are frequent** and has **difficulty explaining long or complex ideas**. |  |
| **Unable to initiate conversation**, but with considerable effort is able to respond in **short sentences** or phrases. |  |
| **Limited to single words** or familiar social or **stereotyped phrases** requiring considerable listener interference. |  |

1. Please describe the type and severity of any **movement disorders** experienced by the veteran (for example, tics, spams, tremors or dyskinesia).

1. Please select the most accurate description of the veteran’s **neurological** conditions.

Do **not** include the impact of other conditions.

| **Description** | **Select** |
| --- | --- |
| **Relatively stable** condition, any increase in mortality is largely related to potential complications. |  |
| **Progressively deteriorating** disorder associated with **reduced life expectancy**, e.g. multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer’s disease. |  |
| **Rapidly progressive** disorder associated with **significantly reduced life expectancy**, e.g. motor neurone disease. |  |
| None of the above. |  |

1. Are there any other comments you would like to make regarding the impact of the veteran’s neurological conditions?

1. Please list **all conditions** contributing to the reported impairment and indicate the **percentage contribution**. Include any previously known condition(s) and any new condition(s) you have identified. The contribution total must equal 100%.

| **Condition** | **Contribution %** |
| --- | --- |
| e.g. Dementia | 75% |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Total** | **100%** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Doctor's signature | Doctor's name | Date | Time to complete form |
|  |  |  |  |