



Supervision, Protection, and Instruction (SPI) Assessment Guide

➔ Preparing for the VFAI

During the Veteran's Functional Assessment, a Caregiver Support Program nurse will ask how you assist the veteran with daily supervision, safety, and decision-making. If you have been caregiving for a long time, write down the tasks you perform each day. Many caregiving duties become routine and are easy to overlook during the assessment.

When answering questions, be specific and detailed. Always explain:

- What you do
- Why you must do it
- How often you do it (each time, daily, weekly, etc.)

Example: Instead of saying "I help with medication management" add an explanation as to why you must do it, for example, "I manage 8 medications daily because the veteran cannot safely track or take them due to memory loss. I administer them every morning and evening."

The nurse will record what you and the veteran say about the veteran's ability to complete the following tasks:

1 Medication Management

The caregiver's role may be defined as no help or supervision, medication setup, visual or verbal reminders, or medication administration.

2 Self Preservation

The judgement and physical ability to cope, make appropriate decisions and take action in a changing or potential harmful situation

3 Self Neglect

The veteran may ignore the need to care for themselves due to or through:

- a. substance abuse that leads to health and safety concerns,
- b. behaviors that pose a threat of harm to self or others,
- c. dehydration or malnutrition
- d. hygiene that may compromise health
- e. impairment of orientation, memory reasoning/judgment
- f. inability to manage medication or to seek medical treatment that may threaten health or safety and/or
- g. unsafe/unhealthy living conditions.

4 Risk of Abuse or Exploitation

Vulnerability to manipulation by others

SPI's continued

5 Safety **INSIDE** of the Home

Veteran needs assistance with activities that require remembering, decision-making, or judgment inside the home

6 Safety **OUTSIDE** of the Home

Support is needed in public or unfamiliar settings for activities that require remembering, decision-making, or judgment.

7 **Delusions/Hallucinations**

Veteran engages in markedly inappropriate behavior that affects a person's daily functioning and social interactions. Behavior is characterized by a radical change in personality and a distorted or diminished sense of reality, which may be displayed as catatonic behavior, delusions, disorganized speech, hallucinations, or thought disorder.

8 **Agitation**

Veteran has a tendency, or would without intervention, to become suddenly or quickly upset or violent as displayed through agitation, anger, or frustration.

9 **Impulsivity**

Veteran has a propensity, or would without an intervention, for sudden or spontaneous decisions or actions which may be displayed as a disregard for personal safety.

10 **Self-Direction**

This is based on legal capacity. Is the veteran able to identify their own needs? Can the Veteran provide/arrange for their health and safety?

➔ **After the Assessment**

Once the assessment is uploaded to My HealtheVet, review it carefully to ensure it accurately reflects the veteran's abilities and the assistance you provide.

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