



## Information and Instructions about the Side-by-Side Survey

### What is the Veterans Rand 12 Item Health Survey (VR-12)?

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- ◆ The VR-12 is a Patient Reported Outcome Measure (PROM) that is used to:
  - Measure health-related quality of life
  - Estimate disease burden
- ◆ The VR-12 asks questions about how an individual is feeling both physically and emotionally, including:
  - 12 questions that measure 8 domains of current physical and mental health status
  - 2 additional items that ask the individual to reflect back over the past year to report if there are any changes in their physical or mental health

### What is the Side by Side Survey?

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- ◆ For the side by side survey, volunteers will be conducting interviews using two versions of the VR-12.
  - The two survey versions are asked one right after the other with the same resident.

#### Version 1:

##### **(Resident Adapted VR-12 Survey)**

- ◆ Developed in BC for the LTC Sector
- ◆ This version is completed by every resident at every facility.

#### Version 2:

##### **(Original VR-12 Survey)**

- ◆ Only 750 English-speaking residents at selected facilities will complete this version plus Version 1

- ◆ The two VR-12 versions will be included in the survey booklet.
- ◆ While some questions in the two versions are identical, others are similar, but not identical. The similarities and differences are outlined at the end of this document. Please take the time to review them.



### **Why does the same resident need to complete the two survey versions?**

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- ◆ Version 1 was adapted to be more suited to people living in long-term care (LTC) settings; version 2 is the original survey. By asking some residents to complete both versions of the survey we hope to:
  1. Determine if Version 1 works for the residential care population.
  2. Better understand how people living in residential care feel about their health and quality of life compared to people in the general population.

### **What is your role in the Side by Side Survey?**

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#### **Step 1: Introduce Version 2**

- ◆ After completing Version 1, you will notice a script written on the survey to introduce Version 2 of the VR-12.
- ◆ You are to read the bolded text (see below):

**Thank you again for answering questions about your health. Your answers are important to us.**

**We have nearly finished! There are only 14 questions left to ask you before we end our interview today.**

**Are you ready to answer the last questions in this survey?**

Continue to last section?

Yes - > Continue to read next section

No - > Attempt to finish another time



## Step 2: Make a Decision About Completing Version 2

Resident Response	Action
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stay and complete the Version 2 survey questions</li></ul>
Not now (soft refusal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thank the resident for his/her time and let him/her know that you will visit them again <b><u>(must be within the same week)</u></b>.</li><li>• Mark the resident list as a “Partial” with a note to approach again within a week to complete the Version 2.</li><li>• When you re-approach the resident, ask the resident if it is a good time to complete the survey.</li><li>• Only approach a maximum of 2 more times</li></ul>
No (Hard refusal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow the same process as you would for a partial that you are not returning to complete.</li><li>• Ask the resident if you can ask one final question (if so ask the last open-ended question)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thank resident, give them a thank you card, and mark as a <b>Completed Interview on the final interview status.</b></li></ul></li></ul>

## Step 3: Assess Resident’s Fatigue Level

- ◆ After introducing Version 2, make a decision about the resident’s fatigue level
- ◆ If any of the following are true, make sure you stop the interview and return at another time during the week:
  - Is the resident showing signs of fatigue (e.g., dozing off, distracted)?
  - Would the resident benefit from a short break?
  - Would it be better for the resident if you were to come back another time to complete the last 14 items?

**NOTE:** If you have stopped the interview after Version 1 of the VR-12, you must return to complete Version 2 **within 1 week**. This is very important, as the residents’ responses for both VR-12 survey versions need to be within the same recall period (i.e., the past week).



**Step 4: Complete Version 2**

- ◆ Read the next bolded section of the script (below). This section is important as it will let the resident know that some questions will be similar to those that were already asked.
- ◆ This section is important as it will let the resident know that some questions will be similar to those that were already asked.

**Thank you again for your willingness to answer the last of the survey questions. I really appreciate your time.**

**You may notice that these last questions seem familiar to you. That is because the questions are similar to the ones I have already asked you today!!**

**Please be patient with me while I ask these questions. I am asking the questions again so that we can better understand the survey results.**

**Let's get started!**

- ◆ Once read, administer and record the resident's response to Version 2 of the VR-12 Survey.



## FAQs

### Q: How will I know if the facility I am in is completing the Side by Side Survey?

- The care home welcome package that is sent to the homes with the survey package will indicate if the facility you are in is participating in the side by side.
- You will be able to see the additional questions in the survey package. The side by side survey packages will have a total of 119 questions, while the “regular” resident survey will have 105 questions.

### Q: What if the resident becomes confused about the similar questions?

If the resident becomes confused or frustrated with responding to similar questions, you can agree that they are quite similar. Stress the importance of these “close but no cigar” questions, and encourage the resident to continue. If the resident wishes to terminate the interview or complete the survey at another time, you must comply with his/her wishes.

### Q: What if a question does not apply to the resident?

Explain that they should answer if they can with the best response for them. Reassure the resident that is okay if they do not wish to answer this question.

## Similarities & Differences Between Version 1 and Version 2

	<u>Version 1: Resident Adapted VR-12 Survey</u>	<u>Version 2: Original VR-12 Survey</u>
<b>1</b>	In general, would you say your health is:	In general, would you say your health is:
<b>Header</b>	<i>The next questions are about activities you might do during a typical day. As I read each item, please tell me if your health now limits you a lot, limits you a little, or not limit you at all.</i>	<i>As I read each item, please tell me if your health now limits you a lot, limits you a little, or not limit you at all.</i>
<b>2</b>	Does your health now limit you in moderate activities, such as walking a block?	Moderate activities, such as moving a table, pushing a vacuum cleaner, bowling, or playing golf?
<b>3</b>	Does your health now limit you in bathing and dressing yourself?	Climbing several flights of stairs?
<b>Header</b>	<i>Now, I will ask some questions about problems with your regular daily activities as a result of your physical health.</i>	During the past week, have you had any of the following problems with your work or other regular daily activities as a result of your physical health?
<b>4</b>	During the past week, have you accomplished less than you would like as a result of your physical health?	Accomplished less than you would like.
<b>5</b>	During the past week, were you limited in the kind of daily activities as a result of your physical health?	Were limited in the kind of work or other activities.
<b>Header</b>	<i>Next, I will ask a few questions about problems with your regular daily activities as a result of any emotional problems (such as feeling depressed or anxious).</i>	During the past week, have you had any of the following problems with your work or other regular daily activities as a result of any emotional problems (such as feeling depressed or anxious)?



<b>6</b>	During the past week, have you accomplished less than you would like as a result of any emotional problems?	Accomplished less than you would like.
<b>7</b>	During the past week, did you not do activities as carefully as usual as a result of any emotional problems?	Didn't do work or other activities as carefully as usual.
<b>8</b>	During the past week, how much did pain interfere with your normal activities?	During the past week, how much did pain interfere with your normal work (including both work outside the home and house work)?
<b>Header</b>	The next questions are about how you feel and how things have been with you during the past week. For each question, please give the one answer that comes closest to the way you have been feeling.	These questions are about how you feel and how things have been with you during the past week. For each question, please give the one answer that comes closest to the way you have been feeling. How much of the time during the past week:
<b>9</b>	How much of the time during the past week have you felt calm and peaceful?	Have you felt calm and peaceful?
<b>10</b>	How much of the time during the past week did you have a lot of energy?	Did you have a lot of energy?
<b>11</b>	How much of the time during the past week have you felt downhearted and blue?	Have you felt downhearted and blue?
<b>12</b>	During the past week, how much of the time has your physical health or emotional problems interfered with your social activities (like visiting with friends, relatives, etc.)?	During the past week, how much of the time has your physical health or emotional problems interfered with your social activities (like visiting with friends, relatives, etc.)?
<b>Header</b>	Now, I will ask you some questions about how your health may have changed.	Now, we'd like to ask you some questions about how your health may have changed.
<b>13</b>	Compared to one year ago, how would you rate your physical health in general now?	Compared to one year ago, how would you rate your physical health in general now?
<b>14</b>	Compared to one year ago, how would you rate your emotional problems (such as feeling anxious, depressed or irritable) now?	Compared to one year ago, how would you rate your emotional problems (such as feeling anxious, depressed or irritable) now?