

## Chapter 14

### Medical and Personal History

#### BACKGROUND

This is a questionnaire designed to capture a wide range of medical and personal history from the subject. The questionnaire is to be administered by an interviewer. It includes information about medical and surgical history for heart and vascular disease, stroke, lung disease, arthritis, endocrine/GI/kidney disease, neurological disorders, cancer, hearing, vision fractures, recent falls, hospitalizations and weight history. For women, there are detailed questions on female reproductive history, menopause, hysterectomy and use of hormone pills.

#### METHODS: Medical History

Question 1: Read the question and record the response using the appropriate response form if this is an 'in-person' interview. Mark the correct response on the questionnaire.

Question 2: *Script: "I am going to read you a list of conditions. Please respond 'yes' or 'no' if you have EVER been told by a doctor that you had this condition."*

- If the participant responds Never told or No, mark "No" and continue on to the next item on the list.
- If the participant responds Yes, mark "Yes" and then ask the age they were first told they had the condition and whether or not they currently have the condition before moving on to the next condition. If they don't know the age, ask them to make their best guess.
- If the participant refuses to respond, mark "Refused" and continue on to the next item on the list.
- If the participant responds Don't know, mark "Don't know" and continue on to the next item on the list.
- If the participant answers yes to chest surgery, other cancer, other fractures, and/or other illness, ask him/her to specify what type. Beginning April 11, 2008, for any person reporting and "other cancer" in section 3g, please probe as to whether this cancer was malignant or not. For example, if the participant says "growth", follow-up by asking "What type of growth was it, and was this growth a malignant cancer"? Or, if the person says "pre-cancerous lesion", follow-up by asking "Was this a malignant cancer"? In the margin of the form write down all the information that the participant provides. If study staff is unsure as to whether this truly is a cancer or not, please bring this to the attention of your clinic coordinator immediately following the visit, and they will determine if this entry should be included under "other cancer".

Question 3: **Q3** asks about falls in the past year. Record the participant's answer. If the participant responds "yes", please continue to **Q3b** and **Q3c**. If s/he does not know for sure how many times s/he has fallen, record his/her best guess.

Question 4: **Q4** asks about hospitalizations in the past year. Record the participant's answer. If the participant responds "yes", please continue to **Q4b**. If s/he does not know for sure how many times s/he has been hospitalized in the past year, record his/her best guess.

Question 5: **Q5** asks about current weight. Record the participant's answer. If s/he does not know for sure, record his/her best guess.

Question 6: **Q6** asks about weight change over the last year. If the weight change was greater than 5 pounds or 2.27 kilograms, complete **Q6b**, **Q6c**, and **Q6d**. For **Q6d**, emphasize that this is the **overall** weight lost or gain. So if the person gained 10 lbs and then lost 5 lbs in the past year, the correct response will be a weight gain of 5lbs. If the participant seems uncertain about the amount of weight gained or lost, ask him/her to estimate.

Question 7: **Q7** asks about participant's usual body weight at about age 50. If s/he does not remember exactly, record his/her best guess. If s/he cannot provide an answer, mark "Don't know/don't remember". If s/he refuses, mark "Refused".

Questions 8 to 13 are to be asked only to women participants:

Question 8: **Q8** asks about pregnancy history. Pregnancies include all live births, still births, and miscarriages. If the participant replies that she has ever been pregnant in **Q8a**, complete **Q8b** that asks how many pregnancies resulted in the birth of a live child. This includes all live births; excludes stillbirths, miscarriages and adopted children. **Q8c** asks how old the participant was when their first child was born, and **Q8d** asks the participant's age when his/her last child was born. Do not include adopted children. If she does not remember exactly, record her best guess.

Question 9: **Q9** asks about age of first menstrual period. If she does not remember exactly, record her best guess.

Question 10a-10c: **Q10a** asks if the participant has reached menopause. If "Yes", proceed to **Q10b**; if "No", go to **Q11**. **Q10b** asks how old she was at the time she reached menopause. By definition, menopause is the cessation of a period for at least one year. Participants are not to include menstrual bleeding due to taking female hormone pills. If she does not remember exactly, record her best guess. If the participant is unable to provide the year in which she reached menopause, she may respond by either providing the age she was at that time OR by choosing one of the five age categories provided under **Q10b**. Then ask all women who answer **Q10b** the cause of their menopause in **Q10c**.

Question 11: **Q11** asks the participant if she ever had an ovary removed.

Question 12a: **Q12a** asks the participant if she ever had a hysterectomy, that is, surgery to remove the uterus or womb. If she answers "no", "don't know" or "refused", please skip to **Q13a**. If she answers "yes", please complete **Q12b** which asks the age or year of this surgery. If she does not remember exactly, record her best guess and proceed to **Q12c** which asks about female hormone pill use after having a hysterectomy. If she answers "yes", **Q12d** asks when she started taking estrogen. If she is unsure of the age or year, ask her to make her best guess. **Q12e** asks for how many years the participant took estrogen or female hormone pills every day or nearly every day. If she does not remember exactly, record her best guess. The questionnaire is finished once this question is answered.

Question 13a: **Q13a** asks the participant if since menopause she has ever taken estrogen or female hormone pills. If the participant answered that they have not reached menopause in Q10a, the answer to this question should be marked "not applicable", and the questionnaire is finished. If she answers "yes", please complete **Q13b** which asks the age or year she started taking estrogen or female hormone pills. If she does not remember exactly, record her best guess and proceed to **Q13c** which asks for how many years the participant took estrogen or female hormone pills every day or nearly every day. If she does not remember exactly, record her best guess. If the participant answers "no" to **Q13a**, the questionnaire is finished. Note: Prior to 3/27/08, "not applicable" was not a choice. The DMCC did an internal QC edit, and took anyone who said "no" to Q10a, and changed their answer to Q13a to "not applicable". Prior to that time, it was inconsistent how the field centers were marking this response.

## AGE GUIDELINES

This addresses the issue of participants indicating their family members' ages as "mid 80s" or "late 70s", etc., without providing a specific number. Because estimates are not useful for data analysis, guidelines have been developed as to how to code the data consistently (please see the chart below).

If a Participant Says/Writes:	You Should Enter as:
70s (number with 's' on end)	75
Early 70s	73
Mid 70s	75
Late 70s	78
70-75 (or any other range, two #s separated by a hyphen)	73 (the midpoint of the range)
< 75 (or any number with a '<' sign before it)	75
> 75 (or any number with a '>' sign before it)	75
75 ? (or any number with a '?' after it)	75
~ 75 (or any number with a '~' before it)	75
75 or 76 (any 'or' combination)	75 (use the lower number)
75+ (or any number with a '+' before it)	75
'Died when elderly'	80
'Died as a young adult'	25
'Died young'	15
'Died in childhood'	5
Between 11 mos. and 1 year	1
'Died in infancy' (or any age between 1 mo old and < 11 mos old)	0.5
< 1	0.5
'Died at birth' (or any age < 1 month old)	0.1
Stillborn	0.1

## METHODS: Personal History (Smoking and Alcohol Consumption)

**Background:** The questions in this section on smoking habits are adapted from the NHLBI Epidemiology Standardization Project. Its purpose is to collect information on lifetime cigarette smoking. Begin administering this section of the form with the following introductory statement: *"Now, I would like to ask you some questions about any smoking and/or drinking that you have done over the course of your lifetime."*

### Smoking

**Question 1a:** The focus of this question is to measure the participant's lifetime cigarette smoking habits, i.e., *"Have you ever...?"* Code NO if the participant smoked less than 100 cigarettes over his/her lifetime. Most US cigarettes have been sold in packages containing 20 cigarettes. Therefore, 100 cigarettes will usually be equivalent to 5 packs of cigarettes. If NO, go to Question 2a.

The focus of **Q1b** the age or year the participant began smoking on a regular basis. Probe to distinguish between the age at smoking the first cigarette and the age at which smoking became habitual. Record the age at which smoking began on a habitual basis. "Regular basis" is defined as at least one (1) cigarette per day.

- In Question 1c, now refers to the 4 weeks prior to the interview. If YES, go to **Q1e**.
- In Question 1d, last cigarette literally means the last cigarette smoked, not (for example) the last cigarette smoked on a regular basis. Record the person's current age if a cigarette has been smoked in the past 4 weeks.
- In Question 1e, you are looking for the usual number of cigarettes smoked per day over the entire lifetime of smoking. Usual is defined as the amount smoked for the longest time period. PROBE if the response does not allow you to easily estimate the number of cigarettes smoked on the average day. CODE 00 if the average number of cigarettes smoked is less than one per day.

**Question 2a:** The focus of this question is the participant's lifetime cigar and/or pipe smoking habit. "Regular basis" is defined as at least one (1) cigar or pipe bowl per day. If NO, go to **Q3a**.

The focus of **Q2b** is smoking cigars or pipes on a regular basis. Probe to distinguish between the age at smoking the first cigar/pipe and the age at which smoking cigars/pipes became habitual. Record the age at which smoking began on a regular basis. "Regular basis" is defined as at least one (1) cigar or pipe bowl per day.

- In Question 2c, Now refers to the 4 weeks prior to the interview. If YES, go to **Q2e**.
- In Question 2d, last cigar or pipe literally means the last cigar or pipe smoked, and not (for example) the last cigar or pipe bowl smoked on a regular basis. Record the person's current age if a cigar or pipe has been smoked in the last 4 weeks.
- In Question 2e, you are looking for the usual number of cigars and/or pipe bowls smoked per day over the entire lifetime of smoking. Usual is defined as the amount smoked for the longest time period. PROBE if the response does not allow you to easily estimate the number of cigar and/or pipe bowls smoked on the average day. CODE 00 if the average number of cigar and/or pipe bowls smoked is less than one per day.

### **Alcohol Consumption:**

**Script:** *"These next questions are about drinking alcoholic beverages. Alcoholic beverages include beer, ale, wine, wine coolers, liquor such as whiskey, gin, rum or vodka, and cocktails and mixed drinks containing liquor, such as Manhattans and martinis, and any other drink that contains alcohol. Please answer for all types of alcoholic beverages together. Let's consider one drink to be equal to: one 12 oz. can of beer, one 5 oz. glass of wine (a full glass), and a drink containing a "shot", a "jigger", or a "finger of liquor" (approximately 1 ¼ oz.)."*

**Question 3a:** Read the question to the participant and if this is an in-person interview, show the participant the appropriate response form. If the participant is unsure of their answer, please ask them to make their best guess. If participant answers "none, do not drink alcohol at all" or "an occasional drink, but less than one per week", proceed to Question 3b, otherwise, skip to Question 3c.

**Question 3b:** The participant is asked for the primary reason for not drinking very much. Do not read responses, instead use the appropriate response form for this question. If the participant indicates an answer other than the seven choices, please write their answer verbatim in the space marked "other reasons".

**Question 3c:** This question is meant to determine whether the individual ever drank more than they do now. Read the question, mark the participant's response, and proceed to Question 3d.

**Question 3d:** This question is meant to ascertain any heavy drinking at some point in their lifetime. Read the question and mark the participant's response. If "yes", proceed to Question 3e, if "no", "don't know" or "refused", end interview.

**Question 3e:** This question is only asked of those answering "yes" to Question 3d. In this question, the participant is asked whether they had consumed 5 or more drinks almost every day in the past 12 months. Read the question and mark the participant's response. End of interview.