A Primer for the Focused Occupational and Environmental Health History Template

A. Purpose: This template is intended for use by clinicians such as physicians, advanced practice providers, or nurses, who do not have a background in this area and wish to screen for possible occupational illness or injury in patients for the purpose of referring to an occupational safety and health clinician for further evaluation and/or management, and require a template that can be merged with existing in-house general medical history taking forms.

B. How to use this form:
1. Pages 1-2 are designed to be filled out by the patient prior to meeting with the clinician.
2. Pages 1-2 are to be integrated into a preexisting clinical evaluation form.
3. The document is provided as a word document so that, if required, additional elements, such as specific chemicals of local importance, can be incorporated into the template.

C. Notes on the structure of the template:
1. The template is structured as an occupational health history document for clinical end users to include in pre-existing medical history forms.

D. Basis for the template and references:
Information from the occupational health history can assist clinicians and healthcare practitioners in the diagnosis and management of illness and injury related to workplace exposures. Targeted occupational health history tools reported in the literature have focused on specific types of disease or injury, such as asthma (Killorn et al. 2014), or have been designed for use as a self-report questionnaire (Lewis et al. 2002). A general template, available to the broader clinical community for tailoring to specific clinical situations, is presented in the NIOSH Focused Occupational Health History Template. This template is based on basic elements of the general occupational and environmental health history found in the Praeger Handbook of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (2010), and material incorporated from a search of the literature on occupational exposure-outcome associations. The elements presented in this reference are based on a history tool which provided the means to document workplace physical hazards, a work history, and environmental exposures that may confound or exacerbate health effects due to occupational exposures, developed in coordination with the American Lung Association (Guidotti, 1983). Table 1 presents comments on sections of the template.

References:
## Table 1. Comments on sections of the Focused Occupational Health History Template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Name, SS# or Patient#, Date</td>
<td>These are the standard sections for these information domains in the clinical examination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Have you ever experienced any health problems or injuries in present or past jobs?</td>
<td>This question is answered by checking the appropriate box from the choices of yes/no/maybe/don’t know. Follow-up questions include (1) if yes, or don’t know, then please describe your situation and (2) have these problems changed when you are away from work? (Check either yes/no) and if so, how? (check worse, same, or better)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Occupational and environmental exposures</td>
<td>These are sub-categories of the OCCHLTH questionnaire (Pandalai, 2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Occupational Exposure Inventory and Environmental History</td>
<td>This section asks general questions, answered in a yes/no format, on exposures in the occupational and environmental setting that may be important. The format lends itself to rapid review by the clinician.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Please check occupation groups in the first column and circle specific types of work in the second column you may have done. Not all work types apply to everyone. The list is not exhaustive. Please complete only if you wish to do so.</td>
<td>Although the occupational profile is included later, this section was included in the event that a patient did not recall a specific job of significance, but did have a memory triggered, by the listing of occupational groups, of working in one or more occupational groups. These occupations are organized based on the NIOSH National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) industry sectors, which are also included in this table. This listing is not exhaustive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Occupational Profile</td>
<td>This section allows the collection of information on jobs/occupations/industries/exposures that the patient can specifically recall.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>