

### APPENDIX 3. SCREENER FORM

Article ID: _____	Reviewer: _____
First Author: _____	
(Last Name Only)	
Study Number: ___ of ___	Description: _____
(Enter '1 of 1' if only one)	(if more than one study)

1. Does the paper present a comparison of quality of clinical data in VA and US non-VA settings?

Yes.....

No .....

**If No → Stop**

[NB: exclude the following: pure utilization rates, rates of disease, efficiency, recruitment techniques, and lack of direct comparisons]

2. Are the data for the comparison sufficiently contemporaneous (within 1 to 2 years)?

Yes.....

No .....

3. How are the VA data assembled (within sites)?

Random/representative sampling.....

Convenience sampling.....

Other (specify \_\_\_\_\_) .....

4. How are the non-VA data assembled (within sites)?

Random/representative sampling.....

Convenience sampling.....

Other (specify \_\_\_\_\_) .....

5. At what level do the VA data come from?

National or sufficiently multisite

to represent national data.....

Multiple VISNs .....

One VISN (or state).....

Multiple medical centers or clinics .....

Single medical center or clinic .....

Unknown .....

6. At what level do the non-VA data come from?

National or sufficiently

representative.....

Large geographic area like a state.....

Multiple centers or clinics .....

Single medical center or clinic .....

7. What conditions are covered by the quality assessment (check all that apply)

*Medical and Non-Surgical Quality Areas*

- CHF .....
- DM.....
- IHD.....
- HTN.....
- Pulmonary Disease .....
- Preventive Care .....
- Cancer (list type) .....
- Osteoarthritis .....
- Depression .....
- Psychosis/schizophrenia .....
- PTSD .....
- TIA/Stroke.....
- Other (specify \_\_\_\_\_).....

*Surgical Quality Areas*

- General .....
- Cardiothoracic .....
- Head and Neck .....
- Orthopedic .....
- Surgical Oncology .....
- Urology.....
- Vascular.....
- Other surgical .....
- Other (specify \_\_\_\_\_).....

*Safety Areas*

- Patient Safety Indicators.....
- Other (specify \_\_\_\_\_).....

8. What features of quality are measured?

- Structure .....
- Process.....
- Outcomes.....

Structure includes presence/absence of facilities

Process includes overuse, underuse, misuse

Outcomes includes intermediate outcomes

9. How did the specifications for the quality assessments compare in VA and non VA samples?

- Identical .....
- Sufficiently similar for valid comparison .....
- Sufficiently dissimilar to present a  
threat to valid comparison .....
- Unclear .....