

## Taking an Exposure History: Consider These Example Questions

### **I - Investigate All Exposures**

Who is the population I serve, and what are my clients' exposure risks?  
What are their environmental exposure risks at home, at school, in the community or workplace?  
Are my clients not responding to usual treatments?  
Do symptoms seem unusual for my client's age or the time of year?

### **P - Present Work**

What is my client's daily routine at work?  
Does my client work with chemicals? How does my client come in contact with them?  
Do other members of my client's household have similar symptoms? Does my client notice any change in their symptoms when away from work or home?

### **R - Residence**

Has my client's home recently been remodeled?  
What is the source of my client's drinking water - a private well or public water system?  
What type of heating system does my client's home have?

### **E - Environment**

What type of farms, landfills, industries, and factories are located near my client's home?  
Does my client live in an urban or rural area?  
Are there polluted waterways near my client's home?

### **P - Past Work**

What were my client's duties in previous jobs?  
Has my client done seasonal or volunteer work? What type?

### **A - Activities**

What hobbies do my client and my client's family enjoy? Has anyone in the family taken up a new hobby or activity recently?  
Does my client hunt, garden, fish, or swim?  
Does my client engage in alternative or cultural health practices?

### **R - Resources and Referrals**

What are my sources of information and referral for my clients?  
A few examples are: ATSDR, AOEC, AAOHN, OSHA, NIOSH, EPA, Health Departments, Poison Control Centers.

### **E - Educate**

How does my client read or receive information?  
Are there available cultural, language, or media information sources applicable to my client's needs and interests?

For more information  
contact ATSDR at 1888 42-ATSDR or visit ATSDR's web site at  
[www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov)