The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry (AHOBPR) consists of two parts: 1) web-based self-assessment questionnaire (SAQ) and 2) optional in-person clinical exam. Veterans are not required to enroll in VHA health care to receive their evaluation.

In May 2019, Public Law 115-929 established the Airborne Hazards and Burn Pits Center of Excellence (AHBPCE) to conduct clinical and translational research, provide specialty evaluations, develop and deliver educational content and best practices related to airborne hazards. As part of these efforts, the AHBPCE established a network of VA physician scientists, referred to as the Post Deployment Cardiopulmonary Evaluation Network (PDCEN) to conduct clinical evaluations enabling the AHBPCE to expand the clinical study of Veterans from the AHOBPR with specific health concerns.

The PDCEN is currently composed of VA physician scientists with expertise in pulmonary and occupational medicine. Over the past year, our group has worked to standardize a ‘Core Clinical Evaluation’ of unexplained dyspnea across our sites.

In a final review with providers, the Veteran is informed about their condition(s), whether condition(s) is deployment-related, and strategies to improve health.