



CONTINUOUS PURSUIT AND THE ONE-YEAR CHAIN



Track each decision date and file an eligible next review option within the applicable period.

PURPOSE	GENERAL PERIOD	KEY CONTROL
Preserve a potential effective-date chain	One year for most covered reviews	A new decision starts a new analysis

REVIEW FIRST

Continuous pursuit can preserve a potential effective date when an eligible review option is filed within the applicable period after each decision. It does not guarantee the final effective date.

THE CHAIN | ONE DECISION AT A TIME

KEEP THE REVIEW SEQUENCE CONNECTED

VA issues a decision

Record the date on the notice, every issue decided, and the available review options.

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File an eligible review

Use the correct HLR, Supplemental Claim, or Board Appeal form within the applicable period.

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VA issues the next decision

Read the new notice. The next review choice and deadline depend on that decision.

CONTROL DATE

Build a deadline log from the date on each decision notice. Keep the review request and proof that the VA received it.

AVAILABLE NEXT STEPS | GENERAL AMA PATTERN

WHAT CAN FOLLOW EACH DECISION?

SC

After a Supplemental Claim

Another Supplemental Claim, HLR, or Board Appeal may be available, depending on the issue and timing.

HLR

After Higher-Level Review

A Supplemental Claim or Board Appeal may be available. A second HLR in a row on the same issue is not the ordinary path.

BVA

After a Board decision

A Supplemental Claim supported by new and relevant evidence or an appeal to CAVC may be available.

DATE FILE | WHAT TO PRESERVE

MAINTAIN A SIMPLE APPEAL LEDGER

✓ Decision date

Use the date on the notice for the issue being reviewed.

✓ Issue description

Write the condition, percentage, effective date, or other disputed benefit question.

✓ Chosen lane and form

Record HLR 20-0996, Supplemental 20-0995, or Board 10182.

✓ Evidence window

Record whether the lane is closed or when the permitted evidence period ends.

✓ Receipt proof

Keep the confirmation, fax receipt, tracking result, or date-stamped copy.

✓ Next decision

Add the next notice to the ledger and repeat the analysis.

BOUNDARIES | DO NOT OVERSTATE

CONTINUOUS PURSUIT DOES NOT DECIDE EVERY EFFECTIVE-DATE QUESTION

LAW

Special rules can control

Separation, increases, presumptions, liberalizing laws, Nehmer, CUE, and other rules can change the analysis.

LATE

A late filing can break the chain

A later Supplemental Claim may still be allowed, but the potential effective date may be different.

CAVC

Court deadline is different

A Notice of Appeal to CAVC generally must be received within 120 days after the Board mailed the final decision.

POTENTIAL, NOT PROMISED

Filing within one year can preserve continuous pursuit, but the final effective date still depends on the governing rule, the claim history, entitlement, and the facts found.