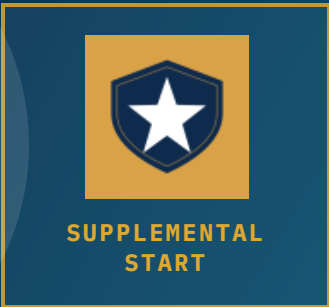


SUPPLEMENTAL CLAIM IN ONE PAGE

Add or identify new and relevant evidence that addresses the prior VA decision.



OFFICIAL FORM
VA Form 20-0995

EVIDENCE RULE
New and relevant

VA ASSISTANCE
May gather identified records

REVIEW FIRST

A Supplemental Claim reopens review of a previously decided issue through evidence the VA did not consider before and that tends to prove or disprove a relevant point.

FIT | WHAT THE LANE DOES

USE THE SUPPLEMENTAL LANE TO CHANGE THE RECORD

NEW

Add new evidence

Submit a medical opinion, record, statement, test, or other material that the VA did not consider in the prior decision.

ID

Identify evidence for VA to obtain

Name the facility, provider, record type, and treatment dates, and provide any required authorization.

LAW

Request review after a change in law

A newly applicable presumption or other legal change can support this route under the current VA rules.

TEST | TWO REQUIREMENTS

THE EVIDENCE MUST BE NEW AND RELEVANT

NEW

- The information was not previously part of the record considered by VA.
- A duplicate copy of the same evidence is not new.
- A new document can still fail if it only repeats an old fact.

RELEVANT

- The information tends to prove or disprove a matter at issue.
- It should address the reason for the prior result.
- Volume alone does not make evidence relevant.

FILE | BUILD THE REQUEST

CONNECT THE NEW EVIDENCE TO THE PRIOR DENIAL



Read the Reasons for Decision

Identify the missing element or disputed rating fact.



Preserve favorable findings

Do not spend the entire submission reproving what the VA already accepted.



Name the new evidence

List the document, author or facility, date, and issue it supports.



Explain relevance

State which prior reason the evidence answers and how.



Use the current form

Submit VA Form 20-0995 through the route for the benefit type and keep proof of receipt.

BOUNDARY | DIFFERENT CLAIM TYPES

DO NOT CONFUSE A SUPPLEMENTAL CLAIM WITH AN INCREASE

DEN

Previously denied issue

Use the Supplemental Claim lane when new and relevant evidence addresses a prior decision.

INC

Granted condition became worse

Use a claim for increased disability compensation when current severity changed after service connection was granted.

DTA

VA error correction after HLR

When HLR identifies a Duty-to-Assist error, VA opens corrective development. Follow that process and the later decision notice.

NEW IS NOT ENOUGH

The submission must be relevant to a disputed fact. Build the packet around the prior decision's reason, not around the number of pages submitted.

