

INCREASED RATING AND EFFECTIVE-DATE REVIEW

Match worsening evidence to the date each higher criterion became factually supportable.

RESPIRATORY FIELD NOTES

VERIFY EACH ROUTE

WORSEN	Identify the changed criterion Was the change a PFT threshold, daily medication, systemic steroid courses, monthly exacerbation care, or respiratory failure?	DATE	Build a dated timeline Use prescriptions, encounter records, PFTs, and claim-stream documents.
LAW	Apply the correct authority Presumptive and liberalizing-law effective dates require claim-specific analysis. Avoid universal cutoff statements.	PROTECT	Review procedure If VA proposes a reduction, review examination adequacy, sustained improvement, notice, and hearing rights.