



YOU HAVE YOUR RECORDS. NOW CHECK THE STORY.

# CHECK YOUR DBQ AGAINST YOUR C-FILE

Do the boxes, the explanation and the evidence fit together?

STEP 1

GATHER THE RECORDS

STEP 2

COMPARE THE DBQ

STEP 3

CHECK THE C-FILE

STEP 4

FLAG ANY MISMATCH

## 1 START WITH THE COMPLETE EXAM

### COMPLETED DBQ

The form for the right person, condition, side and exam date.

### OPINION & UPDATES

Any separate medical opinion, test results and later corrections.

### YOUR C-FILE

The claims record. Find related treatment notes, earlier exams and statements.

Your DBQ may already be in your C-file. Read the full exam, not just one form. Read any later updates for added detail or corrections.

## 2 READ THE DBQ FROM START TO FINISH

Use these seven checks to see whether the answers fit together.

☐ HISTORY & DATES Does the timeline match what you reported?

☐ DIAGNOSIS & SIDE Is the condition, and left or right side, consistent?

☐ SYMPTOMS Do the boxes match the symptoms written down?

☐ TESTS & MEASUREMENTS Do the selected answers fit the recorded results?

☐ WORK & DAILY LIFE Do the impact answers fit the limits described?

☐ MEDICAL OPINION Does the positive or negative answer match the reason?

☐ REMARKS & UPDATES Are there any later remarks or updates to consider?

Sections vary by DBQ. Read the separate medical opinion if one was completed.

## 3 THEN COMPARE WITH THE C-FILE

EXAMPLE OF A POSSIBLE MISMATCH, NOT A REAL CASE

### DBQ CHECK BOX

“No pain reported.”

One selected answer



### SAME EXAM'S HISTORY

“Knee pain on stairs.”

A different answer in writing



### CHECK THE C-FILE

What do records from that period say?

Notes, tests and earlier exams

Check for any conflicts within the exam. If you notice one, compare the entries with related evidence. Check the date, side and question being answered. Different dates or questions may explain an apparent mismatch.

If something seems different, check the context before calling it an error.

## 4 IF YOU FIND A MISMATCH, NOTE THE DETAILS

IF NEEDED, MARK A COPY. KEEP THE ORIGINALS UNCHANGED.

Exam date / condition / side: \_\_\_\_\_  
Page \_\_\_, section \_\_\_ says: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”  
Compare with page \_\_\_, section \_\_\_: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”  
Related record / date / page: \_\_\_\_\_

If you find a possible mismatch, an accredited representative can help you review it and consider next steps. Keep track of your claim or appeal deadlines.

A mismatch does not automatically mean a higher rating, a new exam or a grant.

