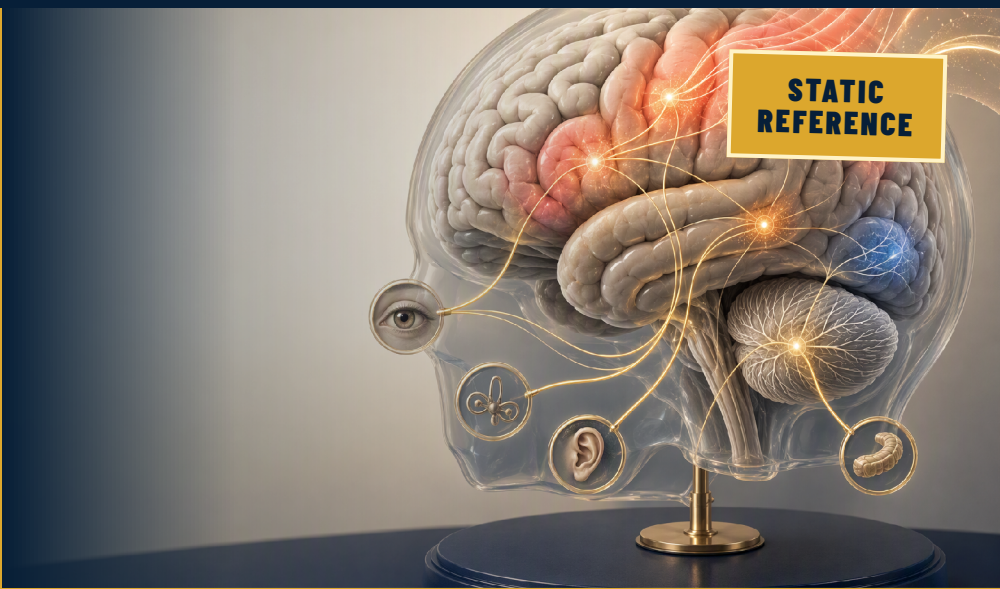


Traumatic Brain Injury

VA Rating Guide

Rate current TBI effects by the cognitive facets and by each separately diagnosed residual that does not overlap.



FACETS // RESIDUALS // NO OVERLAP

Rate current TBI effects by the cognitive facets and by each separately diagnosed residual that does not overlap.

01

WHAT THE CURRENT RATING FRAMEWORK ASKS FOR

DC 8045 SEPARATES THREE TBI AREAS

Cognitive and unclassified subjective residuals use the ten-facet table. A diagnosed mental disorder uses 38 CFR 4.130. Distinct physical residuals use their own codes without counting the same manifestation twice.

FACETS

The table evaluation follows the highest impairment level among the ten facets.

DISTINCT RESIDUALS

Use the proper code for diagnosed migraine, seizure, sensory, endocrine, or other residuals.

CURRENT FUNCTION

Acute mild, moderate, or severe classification does not set the current evaluation.

02

SERVICE-CONNECTION PATHS

DIRECT INJURY

Document the in-service blow, blast, fall, crash, penetration, or other external force and the current residuals.

DELAYED OR CONTINUING RESIDUAL

Connect the current cognitive, emotional, behavioral, or physical impairment to the established TBI.

SECONDARY TO TBI

Claim a distinct diagnosed residual separately when medical evidence links it to TBI and its manifestations do not overlap.

04

BUILD THE RECORD

1

INJURY RECORD

Mechanism, date, consciousness change, amnesia, acute treatment, imaging, and line-of-duty evidence.

2

FACET EXAMINATION

Memory, judgment, interaction, orientation, motor and visual-spatial function, symptoms, behavior, communication, and consciousness.

3

OBJECTIVE TESTING

Neurologic or neuropsychological testing, imaging, and sensory studies when indicated.

4

DISTINCT DIAGNOSES

Migraine, seizure, mental, sensory, endocrine, nerve, or other residual identified.

5

DAILY FUNCTION

Work, instrumental activities, self-care, relationships, safety, and supervision.

6

OVERLAP MAP

Which manifestations belong to the facet table and which are separable under another code.

06

TBI MECHANISMS AND RESIDUALS TO EVALUATE

A diagnosis may be separate only when its manifestations can be distinguished from the TBI facet evaluation.

EVENTS THAT CAN CAUSE TBI

Blast exposure // vehicle crash // fall // training or sports impact // assault // penetrating injury

RESIDUALS TBI MAY PRODUCE

Migraine // seizure // vestibular disorder // hearing or vision effects // smell or taste loss // mental or cognitive disorder

07

DO THIS, NOT THAT

DO

- Map evidence to every affected facet.
- Name each distinct residual diagnosis.
- Document work, daily life, and safety effects.

DO NOT

- Use acute severity as the current rating.
- Assume every symptom belongs in one bucket.
- Count the same manifestation twice.