

FOOT CLAIMS

FOOT-INJURY DIRECT-CLAIM DENIALS

An orthopedic blueprint for service connection, examination evidence, functional loss, and the current rating schedule.



3,583

CLASSIFIED DENIALS

61%

MISSING NEXUS

22%

MISSING DIAGNOSIS

17%

NO IN-SERVICE EVENT

SHARE OF CLASSIFIED SERVICE-CONNECTION DENIALS

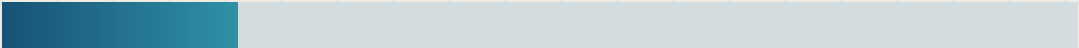
WHY DC 5284 DIRECT CLAIMS ARE DENIED

Missing medical nexus



61%
n = 2,181

Missing current diagnosis



22%
n = 796

No in-service event



17%
n = 606

Among 3,583 classified service-connection denials. These Board patterns describe the published record and do not predict an individual claim.

THE DIRECT-SERVICE-CONNECTION TEST

ALL THREE ELEMENTS MUST BE SUPPORTED

1

CURRENT DIAGNOSIS

Identify the current diagnosed disability and the affected joint or spinal region.

2

IN-SERVICE EVENT

Document injury, symptoms, onset, or another event during qualifying service.

3

MEDICAL NEXUS

Use a reasoned opinion linking the current condition to the in-service element.

FILE

COMPLETE HISTORY

Reconcile service records, lay evidence, post-service injuries, treatment, and symptom progression.