



FOOT CLAIMS

# UNILATERAL VS BILATERAL FOOT RATINGS

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



STRUCTURAL FIELD REFERENCE

## FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

**FLATFOOT**

**ONE COMBINED BILATERAL LEVEL**

DC 5276 includes separate unilateral and bilateral percentages within one evaluation.

**PLANTAR**

**ONE OR BOTH IN THE FORMULA**

DC 5269 also builds laterality into the criteria.

**OTHER**

**READ THE EXACT CODE**

Some foot codes are unilateral, some bilateral, and some apply per disability.

**FACTOR**

**DO NOT ASSUME A BILATERAL FACTOR**

Whether the bilateral factor applies depends on how the conditions are evaluated under the schedule.

Use the regulation in effect for the rating period. Measure functional loss accurately, keep distinct manifestations separate, and avoid compensating the same symptom twice.

