

KNEE CLAIMS

KNEE CLAIM CHECKLIST

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



STRUCTURAL FIELD REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

1

DIAGNOSIS AND PATHWAY

The condition and direct, secondary, aggravation, or increased-rating theory are clear.

2

ALL IMPAIRMENTS CLAIMED

Motion, instability, meniscus, replacement, scars, and neurologic symptoms are not collapsed into one label.

3

FUNCTION DOCUMENTED

Flare-ups, repeated use, walking, standing, stairs, falls, and work effects are recorded.

4

CURRENT RULE APPLIED

The rating-period dates and applicable version of DC 5257 have been checked.

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