

KNEE CLAIMS

KNEE DIAGNOSTIC CODE MAP

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



STRUCTURAL FIELD REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

5257

RECURRENT INSTABILITY

Current criteria distinguish ligament tears and patellar instability, prescriptions, and surgical history.

5260/61

FLEXION AND EXTENSION

Bending and straightening are measured separately and can support separate ratings.

5258/59

MENISCUS

Dislocated cartilage with frequent locking, pain, and effusion is distinct from symptomatic removal.

5055/56

REPLACEMENT OR ANKYLOSIS

Prosthetic replacement and fixation of the joint use separate criteria.

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