

KNEE CLAIMS

FLEXION AND EXTENSION RATING GUIDE

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



STRUCTURAL FIELD REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

FLEX

FLEXION: 60, 45, 30, 15 DEGREES

DC 5260 assigns 0, 10, 20, and 30 percent as flexion becomes more limited.

EXT

EXTENSION: 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 45 DEGREES

DC 5261 assigns 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 percent as extension loss increases.

BOTH

SEPARATE RATINGS MAY APPLY

Compensable flexion and extension limits can be evaluated separately.

FLARE

FUNCTIONAL LOSS STILL MATTERS

Pain, weakness, fatigue, repeated use, and flare-ups can reduce effective motion.

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