

BACK CLAIMS

SPINE C&P EXAMINATION GUIDE

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

STRUCTURAL FIELD REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

HISTORY

EXPLAIN ONSET AND COURSE

Include injuries, treatment, surgery, injections, devices, work demands, and progression.

MOTION

EXPECT REGIONAL MEASUREMENTS

The report should address active, passive, weight-bearing, non-weight-bearing, and repeated-use findings when applicable.

FLARE

QUANTIFY WORST-DAY LOSS

Describe frequency, duration, triggers, motion loss, and functional limits.

NEURO

REPORT RADIATING AND OTHER SIGNS

Identify side, distribution, numbness, weakness, falls, and bowel or bladder symptoms accurately.

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