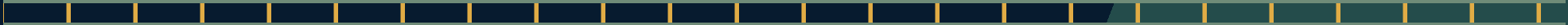


PACT ACT AND TOXIC EXPOSURE

FOUR TERA EXAMINATION EXCEPTIONS

A field guide to presumptions, exposure evidence, TERA development, and claim pathways.



FIELD REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

1

PHYSICAL TRAUMA

Claims based on physical trauma rather than toxic exposure may fall outside the TERA examination duty.

2

MENTAL DISORDERS

Mental disorders are identified in VA implementation guidance as an exception category.

3

NO POSITIVE ASSOCIATION

Certain conditions with no positive association to a specific exposure may be excepted.

4

CLEAR NON-TOXIC ETIOLOGY

A condition manifested during service or clearly due to a non-toxic cause may not require a TERA opinion.

Apply the exact current law to the individual record. Exposure, screening, health-care eligibility, and disability compensation are related but distinct.