



These conditions frequently appeared in published Board issues claiming they were secondary to PTSD. Appearance in the data does not prove that PTSD caused or aggravated a condition.

SECONDARY SERVICE CONNECTION

WHAT THE EVIDENCE
MUST ESTABLISH

1

SERVICE-CONNECTED PTSD

The primary disability is already service connected.



2

ADDITIONAL DISABILITY

A current, separately identifiable condition exists.



3

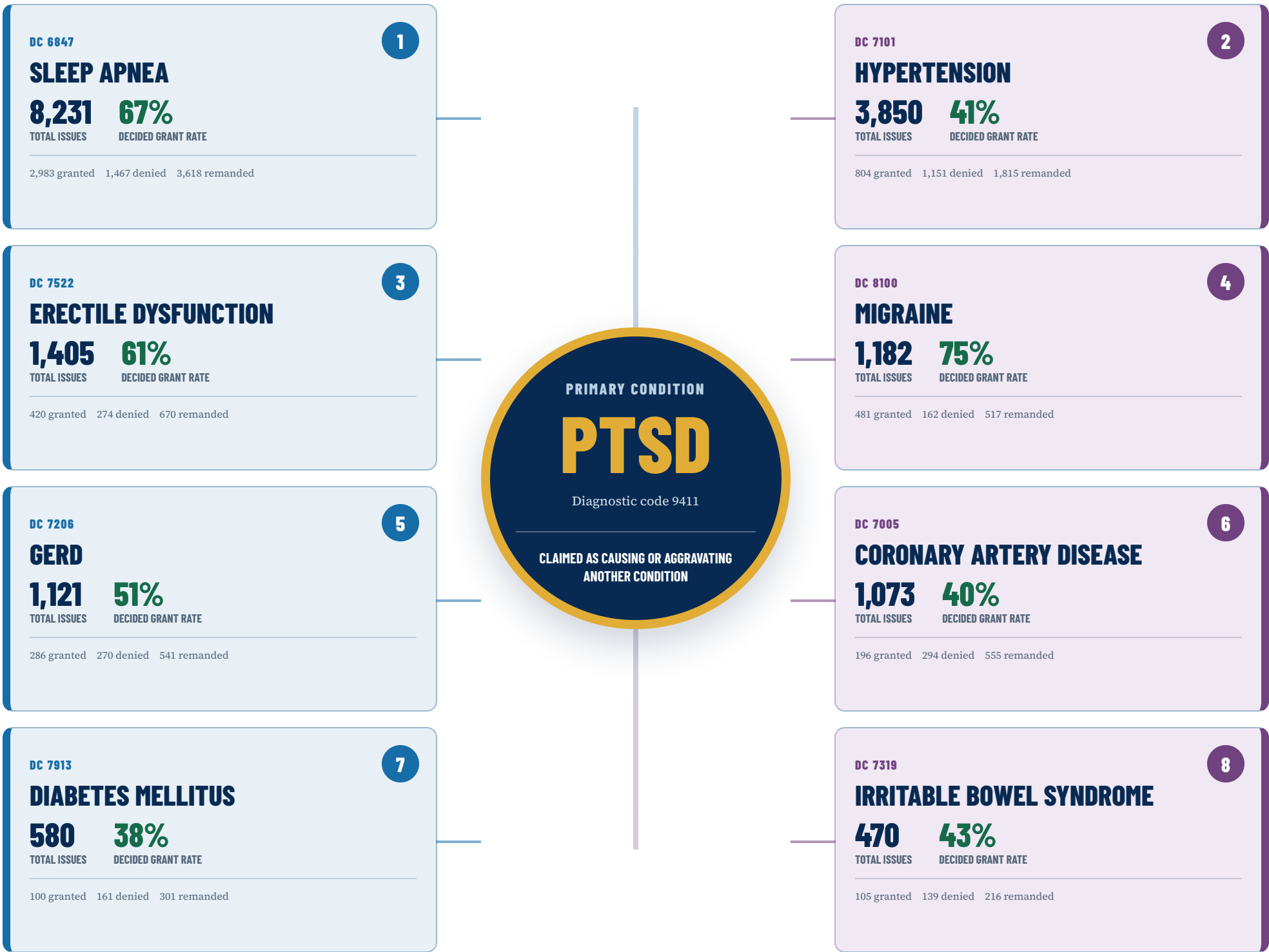
MEDICAL LINK

PTSD caused or aggravated the additional condition.

RATEMYVSO BOARD DATA

TOP PHYSICAL-CONDITION PAIRINGS

TOTAL ISSUES Includes all recorded outcomes
DECIDED GRANT RATE Grants divided by grants plus denials



TWO DIFFERENT MEDICAL THEORIES

CAUSED OR
AGGRAVATED



CAUSED BY PTSD

The evidence explains why PTSD produced the additional disability.



AGGRAVATED BY PTSD

The evidence explains how PTSD increased the severity of a separate condition beyond its natural progression and addresses baseline severity.



MENTAL-HEALTH DIAGNOSES REQUIRE SEPARATE ANALYSIS

A SECOND DIAGNOSIS DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY CREATE A SECOND MENTAL-HEALTH RATING

VA generally avoids evaluating the same manifestations under multiple diagnoses. Distinct diagnoses, symptoms, and legally permissible separate evaluations must be analyzed rather than assumed.

DATA BOUNDARIES

WHAT THIS MAP CAN
AND CANNOT SHOW

Can show: Which claimed pairings appeared most often in coded published BVA issues.

Outcome denominator: The displayed grant rate excludes remands, dismissals, and other outcomes.

Cannot show: That PTSD medically causes any listed condition in a particular person.

Appeal population: Board issues are not the same as all initial VA secondary claims.

FREQUENCY IS NOT A NEXUS. A diagnosis appearing often beside PTSD in appealed claims does not replace medical evidence connecting the conditions in the individual record.