



POKING THE BEAR?

WHAT EACH FILING ACTUALLY PUTS IN PLAY

CLAIM SCOPE MATTERS MORE THAN THE SLOGAN

1 NEW UNRELATED CONDITION

ORDINARY SCOPE

The new condition, the in-service event or exposure, and the medical connection.

IMPORTANT LIMIT

Filing does not automatically direct the VA to rerate every existing disability.

2 CLAIM FOR INCREASE

ORDINARY SCOPE

The current severity of the exact disability for which a higher evaluation is requested.

IMPORTANT LIMIT

The result can be higher, continued, or lower. Existing reduction protections still apply.

3 SECONDARY CONDITION

ORDINARY SCOPE

The new condition and whether an existing service-connected disability caused or aggravated it.

IMPORTANT LIMIT

Evidence about the primary condition may be needed. Its percentage is not automatically reopened.

4 INDIVIDUAL UNEMPLOYABILITY

ORDINARY SCOPE

The work impact of the service-connected disabilities identified as preventing substantially gainful work.

IMPORTANT LIMIT

This filing has broader scope because employability is the issue being decided.

KNOW WHICH PROTECTION DOES WHICH JOB

5 YEARS

STABILIZATION SAFEGUARDS

10 YEARS

SERVICE CONNECTION
PROTECTED

20 YEARS

EVALUATION FLOOR

P&T • STATIC • 55+

LIMITS ROUTINE EXAMS

IF PAYMENT WOULD DROP

The VA generally must issue a proposal, allow 60 days for evidence, and allow 30 days to request a hearing.

SCOPE IS NOT PROBABILITY. THE VA PUBLISHES NO REDUCTION RATE BY CLAIM TYPE.

FREE GUIDE AND 26 PROTECTION CHARTS | RATEMYVSO.NET/DC/RATING-REDUCTIONS

Sources: 38 CFR 3.105, 3.327, 3.343, 3.344, 3.951, and 3.957.