

Slide 1 - Title



Endocrine RVSR - IWT

Compensation Service

September 2020



The slide features a blue background with a subtle pattern of stars and stripes. At the top center is the official seal of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, which includes an eagle with wings spread, holding an olive branch and arrows, with thirteen stars above its head. Below the seal, the title "Endocrine RVSR - IWT" is centered in a dark blue font. Underneath the title, the words "Compensation Service" are on the left and "September 2020" are on the right, both in a dark blue font. At the bottom center, there are two navigation arrows: a grey arrow pointing left and a blue arrow pointing right.

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Lesson Objectives

- Discuss elements of the endocrine VA schedule of rating decisions (VASRD)
- Review special considerations related to endocrine conditions
- Correctly evaluate endocrine conditions based on scenarios



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References

- [§ 3.309\(a\) - Disease subject to presumptive service connection](#)
- [§ 3.309\(e\) - Disease associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents](#)
- [§ 4.119 - Schedule of ratings—endocrine system](#)
- [M21-1 III.iv.4.M - Endocrine Conditions](#)
- [M21-1 IV.ii.2.C.3.a - Presumptive SC Based on Herbicide Exposure](#)
- [Medical Electronic Performance Support System \(EPSS\)](#)
- [Camacho v. Nicholson, 21 Vet.App. 360 \(2007\)](#)
- [Tatum v. Shinseki, 23 Vet. App. 152 \(2009\)](#)





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What is the Endocrine System?

- Consists of glands and other structures that produce secretions that are discharged into the blood and lymph, circulated to various parts of the body, ultimately affecting metabolism and other vital body functions
- Major constituents
 - Glands
 - Hormones
 - Receptors



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Components of the Endocrine System

Major conditions involving the following are included in this rating schedule section:

- pituitary gland
- thyroid gland
- parathyroid glands
- the adrenal glands
- the islets of Langerhans (located in the pancreas)



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Common Endocrine Conditions

Hyperthyroidism, to include but not limited to Graves' Disease (Diagnostic Code (DC) 7900): a condition in which an excess of thyroid hormone (thyroxine) is produced from an overactive thyroid gland (or taking too much thyroid hormone).

Hypothyroidism (DC 7903): an underactive thyroid gland, develops when the thyroid fails to produce or secrete as much thyroxine (T4) as the body needs.

Diabetes mellitus, type II (DC 7913): a metabolic disorder in which the basic defect is an absolute or relative lack of insulin, resulting in impairment of carbohydrate, fat and protein metabolism.

Special Considerations:

- May be subject to a presumption of service connection (§ 3.309(a)) if manifested to a compensable level within one year after discharge.



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Hyperthyroidism 7900

Now:

- For six months after initial diagnosis: 30 percent. Then rate on residuals or complications within the appropriate diagnostic code (DC) in the appropriate body system.
- If hyperthyroid cardiovascular or cardiac disease is present, separately evaluated under DC 7008.
- Separately evaluate eye involvement under the DCs in § 4.79.

Then:

- 10, 30, 60, or 100 percent evaluations were available.
- § 4.7 applied to find the evaluation with the closest approximation to the level of impairment
- Either heart disease or hyperthyroidism, whichever resulted in a higher evaluation
- If ophthalmopathy was the sole finding, would evaluate under eye DCs.



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Hypothyroidism 7903

Now:

- For six months after crisis stabilization either manifesting as myxedema 100 percent *or* without myxedema 30 percent
- After, residuals rated under appropriate DC within appropriate body system(s)
- Separately evaluate eye involvement under the DCs in § 4.79.

Then:

- 10, 30, 60, or 100 percent evaluations were available.
- § 4.7 applied to find the evaluation with the closest approximation to the level of impairment



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Diabetes Mellitus 7913

Now: Only difference was clarification stating one or more daily injection of insulin in the 20, 40, and 60 percent criteria

Then:

- 10 - manageable by restricted diet only
- 20 - **Requiring insulin and restricted diet, or; oral hypoglycemic agent and restricted diet**
- 40 - Requiring insulin, restricted diet, and regulation of activities*
- 60 - Requiring insulin, restricted diet, and regulation of activities with episodes of ketoacidosis or hypoglycemic reactions requiring one or two hospitalizations per year or twice a month visits to a diabetic care provider, plus complications that would not be compensable if separately evaluated
- 100 - Requiring more than one daily injection of insulin, restricted diet, and regulation of activities (avoidance of strenuous occupational and recreational activities) with episodes of ketoacidosis or hypoglycemic reactions requiring at least three hospitalizations per year or weekly visits to a diabetic care provider, plus either progressive loss of weight and strength or complications that would be compensable if separately evaluated



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Tatum v. Shinseki

- In evaluating any condition without successive criteria, § 4.7 should always be applied to determine if the evidence warrants a higher evaluation consistent with the rating schedule criteria.
- With Diabetes Mellitus the Veteran can only be rated at the higher evaluation when all the criteria at the lower disability evaluation is met plus elements specific to the higher evaluation are satisfied.

[M21-1 III.iv.4.M.1.d.](#)



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Camacho v. Nicholson

- For a Veteran to be entitled to a 40 percent evaluation for diabetes mellitus, the evidence must show that it is *medically necessary* for the veteran to avoid strenuous occupational and recreational activities.
- The Court also held that in light of the **conjunctive “and”** in the criteria for a 40 percent rating under DC 7913, all criteria must be met to establish a 40 percent evaluation.
- Regulation of activities: Must have evidence that the avoidance of strenuous activities is required/prescribed as part of the medical management of the diabetes.

[M21-1 III.iv.4.M.1.e.](#)



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Complications of Diabetes Mellitus (DC 7913)

Note (1): Evaluate compensable complications of diabetes separately unless they are part of the criteria used to support a 100 percent evaluation. Noncompensable complications are considered part of the diabetic process under diagnostic code 7913.

- Ensure medical evidence supporting the determination
- Noncompensable evaluations
- Consideration for effective date for complications/secondary conditions
- Common complications

[M21-1 III.iv.4.M.2.a.](#)



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Complications of Diabetes Mellitus (DC 7913)

Example:

- DBQ provides a diagnosis of diabetes mellitus with secondary complications of erectile dysfunction and retinopathy. Both erectile dysfunction and retinopathy are noncompensable based on the DBQ findings.
- Therefore: diabetes mellitus, type II with erectile dysfunction and retinopathy would be the diagnosis on the codesheet.



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Diabetes Mellitus (DC 7913) Special Considerations

Agent Orange Presumptive condition (§ 3.309(e)).


****If diagnosed prior to May 8, 2001, § 3.114 applies!****

Subject to a presumption of service connection (§ 3.309(a)) if manifested to a compensable level within one year after discharge.





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Special Consideration for Endocrine System

Different evaluations are assigned based on the stage of disease - refer to the rating schedule for evaluations assigned at intervals following the initial diagnosis (§ 4.119)



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Scenario

Johnny Appleseed files a claim for service connection for diabetes mellitus. Evidence shows service connection is warranted based on RVN service. Recent DBQ shows he requires daily insulin and a restricted diet.

- Question 1: Which diagnostic code is appropriate?
- Question 2: What percentage is the Veteran entitled to based on the DBQ?



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Answer

DC 7913 with a 20% evaluation

A 20 % evaluation is warranted when the evidence shows the Veteran requires insulin and has a restricted diet, or; oral hypoglycemic agent and restricted diet.



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Special Considerations

- Presumptive Disabilities
- Special Monthly Compensation
- Ancillary Considerations
- Special Development



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Take a Look!

- DBQs
- Rating Schedule
- Manual
- VBMS-R Demo



Notes

Slide 20 - Questions



Questions



Notes
