**Exciting new updates to the rating schedule (using this and the currently published VA Rating Schedule, you should be able to answer all quiz questions in the video) …**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Code** | **Change Description** |
| §4.77 | Examiner must chart at least 16 meridians 22 ½ degrees apart for each eye and indicate the Goldmann equivalent used. The examination report must document the results of either the tangent screen or of the 30-degree threshold visual field with the Goldmann III stimulus size. |
| §4.78a | The examiner must use a Goldmann perimeter chart or the Tangent method that identifies the four major quadrants (upward, downward, left and right lateral) and the central field (20 degrees or less) (see Figure 2). The examiner must document the results of muscle function testing by identifying the quadrant(s), range(s) of degrees in which diplopia exists.  |
| §4.79 | General rating formula revised and three notes added. The location of the General Rating Formula has moved to the top of the rating schedule.  |
| General Rating Formula for Diseases of the Eye: |
| Evaluate on the basis of either visual impairment due to the particular condition or on incapacitating episodes, whichever results in a higher evaluation. |
| - With documented incapacitating episodes requiring 7 or more treatment visits for an eye condition during the past 12 months … 60 percent |
| - With documented incapacitating episodes requiring at least 5 but less than 7 treatment visits for an eye condition during the past 12 months … 40 percent |
| - With documented incapacitating episodes requiring at least 3 but less than 5 treatment visits for an eye condition during the past 12 months … 20 percent**Law Change Effective May 13, 2018** |
| - With documented incapacitating episodes requiring at least 1 but less than 3 treatment visits for an eye condition during the past 12 months … 10 percent |
| Note (1): For the purposes of evaluation under 38 CFR 4.79, an incapacitating episode is an eye condition severe enough to require a clinic visit to a provider specifically for treatment purposes. |
| Note (2): Examples of treatment may include but are not limited to: Systemic immunosuppressants or biologic agents; intravitreal or periocular injections; laser treatments; or other surgical interventions. |
| Note (3): For the purposes of evaluating visual impairment due to a particular condition, refer to 38 CFR 4.75-4.78 and to §4.79, diagnostic codes 6061-6091. |
| 6000 | Change in subordinate conjunction from "and" to "or" - choroidopathy, including uveitis, iritis, cyclitis, or choroiditis |
| 6006 | Added "not otherwise specified" - retinopathy or maculopathy, not otherwise specified |
| 6009 | New note: This includes oribital trauma, as well as penetrating and non-penetrating eye injury.  |
| 6011, 6013,6017, 6018, 6026, 6027, 6035, 6036 | Expanded evaluation criteria from visual impairment to using the General Rating Formula for Diseases of the Eye. Other evaluation criteria, if present in rating schedule, remains the same. |
| 6012 | Expanded evaluation criteria from incapacitating episodes and visual impairment to using the General Rating Formula for Diseases of the Eye. Other evaluation criteria remains the same. |
| 6014 | Language update - "eye" replaces "eyeball." Added additional areas of the eye included for evaluation - eye, orbit, and adnexa (excluding skin). Evaluation criteria remains the same. |
| 6015 | Language update - "eye" replaces "eyeball." Added additional areas of the eye included for evaluation - eye, orbit, and adnexa (excluding skin). Evaluation criteria remains the same. |
| 6034, 6091 | Expanded evaluation criteria from visual impairment to using the General Rating Formula for Diseases of the Eye. Other evaluation criteria remains the same. Added note clarifying that these evaluations can be combined under §4.25. |
| 6040 | **NEW DC - Diabetic Retinopathy** Evaluate under the General Rating Formula for Diseases of the Eye. |
| 6042 | **NEW DC - Retinal Dystrophy** (including retinitis pigmentosa, wet or dry macular degeneration, early-onset macular degeneration, rod and/or cone dystrophy) Evaluate under the General Rating Formula for Diseases of the Eye. |
| 6046 | **NEW DC - Post-chiasmal Disorders** Evaluate under the General Rating Formula for Diseases of the Eye.  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| No Change | 4.75; 4.76; 4.76a; 6001; 6002; 6007; 6008; 6010; 6016; 6019; 6020; 6021; 6023; 6024; 6025; 6029; 6030; 6032; 6037; 6061-6090 |

**Important considerations –**

* Depending on dates… what criteria apply? When filling in evaluation builder and VBMS pay attention to when you should be using the historical or current criteria. General effective date rules should be used, as the change in rating schedule is **NOT** liberalizing legislation (38 CFR 3.114 does not apply).
* Review the DBQ and all evidence of record! Ensure we have all the information we need. Remember to make your decision based on the totality of the evidence If not, can we grant something now while asking for clarification? Ensure the DBQ was completed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist.
* VBMS updates – watch the VBMS Release Information and User Guides page [here](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/VBMS/Resources_Technical_Information.asp).
* Historical rating schedule for July 1, 1985 to December 10, 2008 is located in the e-CFR, accessed through the Knowledge Management Portal. The historical rating schedule before the May 13, 2018 changes is provided as a handout in your training materials.

**LAW CHANGE EFFECTIVE MAY 13, 2018**

**LIBERALIZING LEGISLATION DOES NOT APPLY!**