VBMS-Rating: Higher-Level Review Dispositions & Returns

This job aid contains fictitious Veteran information on various images for training purposes Last updated February 5, 2019

Higher-Level Reviews

OVERVIEW

A claimant who is dissatisfied with a VA decision may file a request for a higher-level review (HLR), a de novo review by a reviewer with difference of opinion authority. (38 CFR § 3.2601)

HLRs have a closed evidentiary record. Evidence reviewed is limited to only evidence that was of record prior to the date VA issued notice of its prior decision.

A decisionmaker may identify a duty to assist (DTA) error or based on a difference of opinion require additional development. Impacted issued must be returned for corrective action.

Additionally, to comply with reporting requirements under the Appeals Modernization Act, decisionmakers must document the disposition for each issue adjudicated under the Supplemental Claim process.

HLR Returns

To complete a HLR decision to return an issue to the lower level for corrective action, follow the steps below.

From the *Claims Details Screen*, confirm the contentions established within Caseflow are displayed.



Step 1: On the Issue Management Screen, Add the Contention (map to Caseflow contention) and select Enter Decision

Save Issue	View Issue	Enter Decision
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Step 2: Select Disability Decision Information-manual entry option.

Calculator			
Select			
		Untitler	
Other:			
OLeg	cy Evaluation Builder		
Disi	ulity Decision Information - manual	entry	
Kerceords use	for the selected Body System:		



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Step 3: From the Diagnosis Information Tab, select Edit on the Contention Block

	Diagnosis: PTSD	08/15/2013 - ACTIVE	
DC 9411 50%	Major: No Schedule: Current Schedule		edit مراجع
50 %			≓ STA

Step 4: Select the appropriate *DTA* selection from the *Supplementary Decision* drop-down menu.

zait issue			
* Promany Disgnostic Code: 5007 Scotary Diagnostic Code: * asgnostic * asgnosti	To Date Calendar	tapplementary Diction: Texas Confined and Store 30 CFR 3.050(yetror) Confined and Continued Decision Confined and Continued Decision Confined and Continued Decision DTA Error - Pol Reg DTA Er	dar

Step 5: Enter the action needed to complete the *DTA Error*.

\square	The issue of Ear was returned for correction of a duty to assist error in the prior decision. We failed to get federal records. We will develop or 1.
	c volacity # tw
	A 40 percent evaluation is assigned from January 1, 2017. (38 CFR 3.321)
	Complete

Step 6: Build the rating narrative on the *Document Decision Screen,* and select *Save.*

		sue: Higher Level Revier	w for Ear.					
	* Deci	ion: A duty to assist erro	or has been identified durit	ig the Higher Le	vel Review for	Ear.		
Fact	s Analysis	Favorable Findings						
ÐG	enerated Text;	0						
The	issue of Ear w	as returned for correction	of a duty to assist error in	the prior decisi	on. We failed to	get federal re	rds. We will develop for information.	
A 4	0 percent evalu	ition is assigned from Ja	inuary 1, 2017. (38 CFR 3	321)				



HLR Dispositions

Step 1: Complete a decision for all contentions using the *Issue Management* screen. From the *Documents* tab, preview the *Narrative* and *Codesheet* and select *Finalize*.

E Finali	ze Kaung
When ready to	print/Return to Corporate, select the "Finalize" button below. This will begin the upload of the Rating to Corporate
Finalize	

Step 2: Select the appropriate *DTA Error* from the *Contention Disposition Information* drop-down menu, and complete the rating by selecting *Continue*.

Service connection	Select a disposition	
for Neck is granted with an evaluation of	Granted	
30 percent effective January 1, 2017.:	DTA Error – Fed Recs	
	DTA Error - PMRs	
	DTA Error – Other Recs	
	DTA Error – Exam/MO	
L		

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