

Introduction to Infectious Diseases, Immune Disorders, and Nutritional Deficiencies

Rating Schedule Changes

The following is a glimpse of the changes to infectious diseases, immune disorders, and nutritional deficiencies rating schedule (38 CFR §4.88b) that are effective August 11, 2019. Diagnostic codes without changes have been omitted from this chart.

Code	Change Description
Regulation Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note added to top of rating schedule • Note for Infectious Diseases: Rate any residual disability of infection within the appropriate body system as indicated by the notes in the evaluation criteria. As applicable, consider the long-term health effects potentially associated with infectious diseases as listed in § 3.317(d), specifically Brucellosis, <i>Campylobacter jejuni</i>, <i>Coxiella burnetii</i> (Q fever), Malaria, Mycobacterium Tuberculosis, Nontyphoid Salmonella, <i>Shigella</i>, Visceral Leishmaniasis, and West Nile virus.
General Rating Formula (GRF) for Infectious Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Rating Formula (GRF) for Infectious Diseases created to ensure consistency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 – For active disease • After active disease has resolved, rate at 0 percent for infection. Rate any residual disability of infection within the appropriate body system.
6300	Vibrosis (Cholera, Non-cholera) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retitled from “Cholera, Asiatic” • Updated evaluation criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Note added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Rate residuals of cholera and non-cholera <i>Vibrio</i> infections, such as renal failure, skin, and musculoskeletal conditions, within the appropriate body system.
6301	Visceral leishmaniasis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated nomenclature for 100 percent evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 – As active disease • First note edited to include examples of residual disability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note 1: Continue a 100 percent evaluation beyond the cessation of treatment for active disease. Six months after discontinuance of such treatment, determine the appropriate disability rating by mandatory VA examination. Any change in evaluation based upon that or any subsequent examination shall be subject to the provisions of § 3.105(e) of this chapter. Thereafter, rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, liver damage, and bone marrow disease. • Second note added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note 2: Confirm the recurrence of active infection by culture, histopathology, or other diagnostic laboratory testing.
6302	Leprosy (Hansen’s disease) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note edited to include examples of residual disability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Continue a 100 percent evaluation beyond the cessation of treatment for active disease. Six months after discontinuance of such treatment, determine the appropriate disability rating by mandatory VA examination.

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	<p>Any change in evaluation based upon that or any subsequent examination shall be subject to the provisions of § 3.105(e) of this chapter. Thereafter, rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, skin lesions, peripheral neuropathy, or amputations.</p>
6304	<p>Malaria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated evaluation criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Edited first note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note 1: The diagnosis of malaria, both initially and during relapse, depends on the identification of the malarial parasites in blood smears or other specific diagnostic laboratory tests such as antigen detection, immunologic (immunochromatographic) tests, and molecular testing such as polymerase chain reaction tests. • Added second note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note 2: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, liver or splenic damage, and central nervous system conditions.
6305	<p>Lymphatic filariasis, to include elephantiasis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retitled from “Lymphatic filariasis” • Updated evaluation criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Note added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, epididymitis, lymphangitis, lymphatic obstruction, or lymphedema affecting extremities, genitals, and/or breasts.
6306	<p>Bartonellosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated evaluation criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Note added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, endocarditis or skin lesions.
6307	<p>Plague</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the evaluation criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Note added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection.
6308	<p>Relapsing Fever</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the evaluation criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Note added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, liver or spleen damage, iritis, uveitis, or central nervous system involvement.

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6309	<p>Rheumatic fever:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the evaluation criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Note added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, heart damage.
6310	<p>Syphilis, and other treponemal infections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, diseases of the nervous system, vascular system, eyes, or ears (see DC 7004, DC 8013, DC 8014, DC 8015, and DC 9301).
6311	<p>Tuberculosis, miliary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note 1: Confirm the recurrence of active infection by culture, histopathology, or other diagnostic laboratory testing. • Note 2: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection which includes, but is not limited to, skin conditions and conditions of the respiratory, central nervous, musculoskeletal, ocular, gastrointestinal, and genitourinary systems and those residuals listed in §4.88c of this chapter.
6312 NEW	<p>New diagnostic code for “Nontuberculosis mycobacterial infection”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 – As an active disease • Note 1: Continue the rating of 100 percent for the duration of treatment for active disease followed by a mandatory VA exam. If there is no relapse, rate on residuals. Any change in evaluation based upon that or any subsequent examination shall be subject to the provisions of §3.105(e) of this chapter. • Note 2: Confirm the recurrence of active infection by culture, histopathology, or other diagnostic laboratory testing. • Note 3: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection which includes, but is not limited to, skin conditions and conditions of the respiratory, central nervous, musculoskeletal, ocular, gastrointestinal, and genitourinary systems and those residuals listed in §4.88c of this chapter.
6316	<p>Brucellosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the evaluation criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Notes added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note 1: Culture, serologic testing, or both must confirm the initial diagnosis and recurrence of active infection. • Note 2: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, meningitis, liver, spleen and musculoskeletal conditions.

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6317	<p>Rickettsial, erlichial, and <i>Anaplasma</i> infections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retitled from “Typhus, scrub” • Updated the evaluation criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Notes added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note 1: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, bone marrow, spleen, central nervous system, and skin conditions. • Note 2: This diagnostic code includes, but is not limited to, scrub typhus, Rickettsial pox, African tick-borne fever, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ehrlichiosis, or anaplasmosis.
6318	<p>Melioidosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the evaluation criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Notes added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note 1: Confirm by culture or other specific diagnostic laboratory tests the initial diagnosis and any relapse or chronic activity of infection. • Note 2: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, arthritis, lung lesions, or meningitis.
6319	<p>Lyme disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated evaluation criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Note added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, arthritis, Bell’s palsy, radiculopathy, ocular, or cognitive dysfunction.
6320	<p>Parasitic diseases not otherwise specified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the evaluation criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Note added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection.
6325 NEW	<p>New diagnostic code for “Hyperinfection syndrome or disseminated strongyloidiasis”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 – As active disease • Note: Continue the rating of 100 percent through active disease followed by a mandatory VA exam. If there is no relapse, rate on residual disability. Any change in evaluation based upon that or any subsequent examination shall be subject to the provisions of §3.105(e) of this chapter.
6326 NEW	<p>New diagnostic code for “Schistosomiasis”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 – As acute or asymptomatic chronic disease • Note: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, conditions of the liver, intestinal system, female genital tract, genitourinary tract, or central nervous system.

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6329 NEW	<p>New diagnostic code for “Hemorrhagic fevers, including dengue, yellow fever, and others”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Note: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, conditions of the central nervous system, liver, or kidney.
6330 NEW	<p>New diagnostic code for “<i>Campylobacter jejuni</i> infection”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Note: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, Guillain-Barre syndrome, reactive arthritis, or uveitis.
6331 NEW	<p>New diagnostic code for “<i>Coxiella burnetii</i> infection (Q fever)”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Note: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, chronic hepatitis, endocarditis, osteomyelitis, post Q-fever chronic fatigue syndrome, or vascular infections.
6333 NEW	<p>New diagnostic code for “Nontyphoid <i>Salmonella</i> infections”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Note: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, reactive arthritis.
6334 NEW	<p>New diagnostic code for “<i>Shigella</i> infections”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Note: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, hemolytic-uremic syndrome or reactive arthritis.
6335 NEW	<p>New diagnostic code for “West Nile virus infection”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate under the GRF for Infectious Diseases. • Note: Rate under the appropriate body system any residual disability of infection, which includes, but is not limited to, variable physical, functional, or cognitive disabilities.
6351	<p>HIV-related illness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated evaluation criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 – AIDS with recurrent opportunistic infections (see Note 3) or with secondary diseases afflicting multiple body systems; HIV-related illness with debility and progressive weight loss • 60 – Refractory constitutional symptoms, diarrhea, and pathological weight loss; or minimum rating following development of AIDS-related opportunistic infection or neoplasm • 30 – Recurrent constitutional symptoms, intermittent diarrhea, and use of approved medication(s); or minimum rating with T4 cell count less than 200 • 10 – Following development of HIV-related constitutional symptoms; T4 cell count between 200 and 500; and use of approved medication(s); or with evidence of depression or memory loss with employment limitations • 0 – Asymptomatic, following initial diagnosis of HIV infection, with or without lymphadenopathy or decreased T4 cell count • Edited existing notes, added new note:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note 1: In addition to standard therapies and regimens, the term “approved medication(s)” includes treatment regimens and medications prescribed as part of a research protocol at an accredited medical institution. Note 2: Diagnosed psychiatric illness, central nervous system manifestations, opportunistic infections, and neoplasms may be rated separately under the appropriate diagnostic codes if a higher overall evaluation results, provided the disability symptoms do not overlap with evaluations otherwise assignable above. Note 3: The following list of opportunistic infections are considered AIDS-defining conditions, that is, a diagnosis of AIDS follows if a person has HIV and one more of these infections, regardless of the CD4 count --- candidiasis of the bronchi, trachea, esophagus, or lungs; invasive cervical cancer; coccidioidomycosis; cryptococcosis; cryptosporidiosis; cytomegalovirus (particularly CMV retinitis); HIV-related encephalopathy; herpes simplex-chronic ulcers for greater than one month, or bronchitis, pneumonia, or esophagitis; histoplasmosis; isosporiasis (chronic intestinal); Kaposi’s sarcoma; lymphoma; Mycobacterium avium complex; tuberculosis; Pneumocystis jirovecii (<i>carinii</i>) pneumonia; pneumonia recurrent; progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy; Salmonella septicemia, recurrent; toxoplasmosis of the brain; and wasting syndrome due to HIV.
6354	<p>Chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to evaluation criteria Edited existing note for consistency purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: For the purpose of evaluating this disability, incapacitation exists only when a licensed physician prescribes bed rest and treatment.

Diagnostic codes evaluated under the new GRF for Infectious Diseases	6300, 6304, 6305, 6306, 6307, 6308, 6309, 6316, 6317, 6318, 6319, 6320, 6329, 6330, 6331, 6333, 6334, 6335
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No changes to the following diagnostic codes or regulations	6313, 6314, 6315, 6350 §4.88a, §4.88c, §4.89
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Important considerations –

- Changes to the Infectious Diseases, Immune Disorders, and Nutritional Deficiencies Rating Schedule are effective August 11, 2019
- Depending on the date the claim was received, consider whether historical or current criteria applies.
- General effective date rules should be used, as the change in rating schedule is **NOT** considered liberalizing legislation (38 CFR 3.114 does not apply).
- Review the DBQ and all evidence of record! Consider potential entitlement to an earlier effective date ([38 CFR 3.400\(o\)](#)) when processing a claim for increase, but remember you cannot grant an evaluation based on the new schedule prior to August 11, 2019. Remember to make your decision based on the totality of the evidence.
- Historical rating schedule can be found in the e-CFR, accessed through the Knowledge Management Portal; Regulation Citator through Rating Jobs Aids; Medical EPSS; or the e-CFR accessed through the Compensation Service Intranet.