

DRC Phase One - Is the Claim Ready for Submission? **Ready to Submit Exercise**

Review the following scenarios and determine if the claim is ready for submission. Assume all forms and exams are complete, unless noted. The current evaluation of all service-connected conditions is provided.

1. The Veteran is filing a claim for increase for the following conditions:

- **posttraumatic stress disorder (30%)**
- **sleep apnea (30%)**
- **bilateral hearing loss (10%)**
- **tinnitus (0%)**
- **left knee strain (0%)**

The Veteran has provided the following forms/evidence:

- **VA Form 21-526EZ**
- **VA Form 21-4138 (Veteran's statement)**
- **VA Form 21-686c**
- **PTSD – Review DBQ**
- **Contractor Exam: Hearing Loss and Tinnitus DBQ**
- **Knee and Lower Leg DBQ**
- **Private Medical Records from Dr. Jones (showing the Veteran needs a CPAP machine)**

Should you submit the claim through Direct Upload under the DRC Program?

YES

NO

Why/Why Not?

Although the Sleep Apnea DBQ is missing, the medical evidence of record shows an increase could potentially be granted for the sleep apnea condition. The DRC program does not require a DBQ for all claimed condition(s) if the VSO provides sufficient medical evidence in support of the claimed condition(s).

2. The Veteran is filing a claim for increase for the following conditions:

- Parkinson's disease (100%)
- right knee strain (10%)
- left knee strain (10%)
- bilateral hearing loss (0%)
- abdominal scar, status post appendectomy (0%)

The Veteran has provided the following forms/evidence:

- VA Form 21-526EZ
- VA Form 21-4138 (spouse's statement)
- VA Form 21-2680 (showing need for aid & attendance due to Parkinson's)
- Parkinson's Disease DBQ
- Mental Disorders DBQ
- Knee and Lower Leg DBQ
- Scars DBQ
- Contractor Exam: Hearing Loss and Tinnitus DBQ

Should you submit the claim through Direct Upload under the DRC Program?

YES

NO

Why/Why Not?

Although the Veteran is potentially eligible for a higher payment due to the need for Aid & Attendance, Parkinson's disease is at the schedular max. A claim for increase is not appropriate since the condition is at the schedular max. If you filed a claim for increase for the other conditions and a claim for A&A due to Parkinson's disease, this claim would be eligible for DRC process.

3. The Veteran is filing a claim for increase for the following conditions:

- depression (70%)
- traumatic brain injury (50%)
- sleep apnea (50%)
- diabetes mellitus (10%)
- degenerative disc disease, lumbosacral spine (10%)
- bilateral hearing loss (0%)
- tinnitus (0%)

The Veteran has provided the following forms/evidence:

- VA Form 21-526EZ
- VA Form 21-4138 (Veteran's statement)
- Mental Disorders DBQ (the psychologist clearly denotes what symptoms are related to the depression and which are related to TBI)
- Contractor Exam: TBI – Review DBQ (filled out by the same examiner who completed the Mental Disorders DBQ)
- Sleep Apnea DBQ
- Diabetes Mellitus DBQ (the DBQ states that the Veteran's diabetes mellitus has caused the following conditions: bilateral lower extremity peripheral neuropathy, coronary artery disease, diabetic retinopathy, and diabetes nephropathy)
- Back (Lumbosacral Spine) Conditions DBQ
- Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy DBQ
- Heart DBQ
- Eye DBQ (completed by an ophthalmologist)
- Kidney Conditions (Nephrology) DBQ
- Contractor Exam: Hearing Loss and Tinnitus DBQ

Should you submit the claim through Direct Upload under the DRC Program?

YES NO

Why/Why Not?

All forms and DBOs are present. Remember, if certain exams discuss residuals, additional DBOs will be needed. If the Veteran is claiming an increase for TBI or a mental condition and is service connected for both, a TBI and mental exam is needed so that the examiner can distinguish which symptoms are related to each condition. All exams were filled out by the appropriate physician.