



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
Washington, D.C. 20420

April 22, 2010

Director (00/21)
All VA Regional Offices and Centers

Fast Letter 10-14

SUBJ: Procedural Change Regarding Routine Future Examinations

Purpose

At the recent VBA Leadership Workshop, a recommendation was made to modify compensation claims processing procedures to schedule routine future examinations at 5-year intervals instead of 2-year intervals. This fast letter implements this procedural change to aid in the reduction of the rating-related claims inventory.

Procedure

This procedural change applies to reexaminations under 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §3.327 and is effective immediately. Claims should be thoroughly analyzed to determine if a routine future examination is necessary. Once it is determined that a routine future examination is needed, schedule the examination 5 years from the date of the rating decision, with the following exceptions:

- Prestabilization rating decisions under 38 CFR §3.327(b)(1).
- Discharge from military service due to a mental disorder caused by traumatic stress under 38 CFR §4.129.
- Malignancies that require reevaluation 6 months following cessation of treatment for active disease.
- Any other future examination required under other sections of 38 CFR Part 3 and Part 4.

38 CFR §3.327 states that reexaminations, including periods of hospital observation, will be requested whenever VA determines there is a need to verify either the continued existence or the current severity of a disability. Reexaminations will be required if it is likely that a disability has improved, or if evidence indicates there has been a material change in a disability or the current rating may be incorrect.

Routine future examinations established prior to the date of this fast letter (excluding the exceptions listed above) will be automatically rescheduled for 5 years from the date of the rating decision through a software program. Regional offices will be notified when this has been completed. Until notified, all routine future examinations that mature should be advanced to a date 5 years from the date of the rating decision that established the need for the routine future examination.

When the results of a routine future examination (set at 5 years out) are received and improvement of a disability is shown, a reduction in evaluation cannot be made based on only one examination per 38 CFR §3.344. The second examination should be scheduled for one year from the date of the new rating decision. Adjudicate and promulgate all routine future examinations under end product 310 and 810 work items.

Point of Contact

Questions on this fast letter should be submitted to [VAVBAWAS/CO/212A](#).

/s/

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