

News Release –

Important New Changes Coming to Rating Schedule

Tinnitus will no longer rate the 10% compensable rating that the current regulation allows. Instead, tinnitus will be rated along with the medically determined underlying cause. This could result in a non-compensable rating of zero percent. This is significant, as a compensable rating qualifies a Veteran as a priority group three in the VA Hospital System.

Another noteworthy change to the rating schedule concerns sleep-apnea. Sleep apnea treated with certain breathing assistance devices currently rate a 50% compensation rating. The change will rate sleep apnea for residuals after treatment. If the treatment works well to alleviate symptoms of hypersomnolence as an example, then a zero percent non-compensable rating could be granted.

NOTE: Changes to the rating schedule do not impact those already rated those items, as these

ratings are maintained. If the new rating offers an increase, the increase must be applied for with a claim.

It is recommended submitting an Intent to File Claim as soon as you can if you are suffering from any disability that is possible to service. Doing so preserves the date³ of claim up to one year from a claim submitted in the future and preserves the ability to be rated by the current regulations. If the regulation changes during your claim timeframe, you legally fall under both rules and benefit by using whichever rating regulation creates the higher compensation.

Update January 2025

Effective January 02, 2025, an interim final rule established service connection for urinary bladder cancer, including over-lapping sites of the bladder, and cancer of the ureteric orifice, and urachus due to exposure to fine particulate matter.

Effective January 10, 2025, Interim Final Rule (IFR) establishes presumptive service-connection for acute leukemias, chronic leukemias, multiple

myelomas, including monoclonal syndroms (MDS), and myelofibrosis due to exposure to time particulate matter.

The new presumptions apply to Veterans who served on[active military, naval, air, or space service in the following locations:

1. In the Southwest Asia theater of operations of Somalia (which includes Iraq, Kuwait, Saudia Arabis, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudia Araba, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations) during the Persian Gulf War on or after August 2, 1990; and
2. In Afghanistan, Syria, Djibouti, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen and the airspace above these locations during the Gulf War on or after September 11, 2001.