

## “KNOWLEDGE IS POWER”

Know what your options are when interacting with the VA. Below are short and/or edited versions of VA policy for Disability issues, ratings and profiles found in CFR Title 38-Chapter 1-Part 4. The full text can be found by going to the “Code of Federal Regulations-Title 38 –Chapter 1-Part 4” “Pensions, Bonuses and Veterans Relief”

### I---Subpart –A—General Policy in Rating—selective dialog

#### §4.1—Essentials of evaluative rating

The rating schedule is primarily a guide in the evaluation of disability resulting from all types of diseases and injuries encountered as a result of/or incident to military service.

#### §4.2—Interpretation of examination reports

If a diagnosis is not supported by the findings on the examination report or if the report does not contain sufficient detail, it is incumbent on the rating board to return the report as inadequate for evaluation purposes.

#### §4.3—Resolution of reasonable doubt

When after careful consideration of all procurable and assembled data, a reasonable doubt arises regarding the degree of disability such doubt will be resolved in favor of the claimant.

### III---Subpart B—DISABILITY RATINGS

NOTE—This section describes/lists the general areas of possible health issues and the methodology used by the VA to evaluate and assign disability percentages. You should review with your health care provider and Veterans Service Organization (VSO) or Accredited Representative, the appropriate section before filing for compensation to more accurately describe to the VA your health issues.

When considering filing for health compensation thru VA—\*\*\*\*IT IS IMPORTANT TO REVIEW THE APPROPRIATE SECTION (§) and corresponding SCHEDULE OF RATINGS SECTION\*\*\*\*. The more aware you and your health care provider are of these sections and the schedule of ratings section, the better able you are to communicate to the VA your health issues.

<https://ecfr.io/Title-38/pt38.1.4>

### A----THE MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM

#### §4.40---Functional loss

#### §4.41---History of injury

#### §4.42---Complete medical examination of injury cases

(MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM CONTINUED)

- §4.43---Osteomyelitis
- §4.44---The bones
- §4.45---The joints
- §4.46---Accurate measurement
- §4.55---Principles of combined ratings for muscle injuries
- §4.56---Evaluation of muscle disabilities
- §4.57---Static foot deformities
- §4.58---Arthritis due to strain
- §4.59---Painful motion
- §4.61---Examination
- §4.62---Circulatory disturbances
- §4.63---Loss of use of hand or foot
- §4.64---Loss of use of both buttocks
- §4.66---Sacroiliac joint
- §4.67---Pelvic bones
- §4.68---Amputation rules
- §4.69---Dominant hand
- §4.70---Inadequate examinations
- §4.71---Measurement of ankyloses and joint motion
- §4.71a—Schedule of ratings—musculoskeletal system
- §4.73---Schedule of ratings—muscle injuries

B---THE ORGANS OF SPECIAL SENSE

- §4.75---General consideration for evaluating visual impairment
- §4.76---Visual acuity
- §4.76A---Computation of average concentric contraction of visual fields
- §4.77---Visual fields
- §4.78---Muscle function
- §4.79---Schedule of ratings—eye

C---IMPAIRMENT OF AUDITORY ACUITY

- §4.85---Evaluation of hearing impairment
- §4.86---Exceptional patterns of hearing impairment
- §4.87---Schedule of ratings—ear
- §4.87a—Schedule of ratings—other sense organs

D---INFECTIOUS DISEASES, IMMUNE DISORDERS AND NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCIES

- §4.88a—Chronic fatigue syndrome
- §4.86b—Schedule of ratings-infectious diseases, immune disorders and nutritional deficiencies
- §4.88C—Ratings for inactive non-pulmonary tuberculosis initially entitled after August 19, 1968
- §4.89---Ratings for inactive non-pulmonary tuberculosis in effect on August 19, 1968

#### E----THE RESPIRTORY SYSTEM

§4.96---Special provisions regarding evaluation of respiratory conditions

§4.97---Schedule of ratings-respiratory system

#### F----THE CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

§4.100—Application of the evaluation criteria for diagnostic codes 7000-7007, 7011, and 7015-7020

§4.104---Schedule of ratings—cardiovascular system

#### G----THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

§4.11—Ulcers

§4.111—Post gastrectomy syndromes

§4.112—Weight loss

§4.113—Coexisting abdominal conditions

§4.114—Schedule of ratings—digestive system

#### H----THE GENITOURINARY SYSTEM

§4.115—Nephritis

§4.115a—Ratings of the genitourinary system—dysfunctions

§4.115b—Ratings of the genitourinary system—diagnoses

#### I----GYNECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND DISORDERS OF THE BREAST

§4.116—Schedule of ratings-gynecological conditions and disorders of the breast

#### J----THE HEMIC AND LYMPHATIC SYSTEMS

§4.117 Schedule of ratings-hemic and lymphatic systems

#### K---THE SKIN

§4.118—Schedule of ratings—skin

#### L----THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM

§4.119—Schedule of ratings—endocrine system

#### M----NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND CONVULSIVE DISORDERS

§4.120—Evaluations by comparison

§4.121—Identification of epilepsy

§4.122—Psychomotor epilepsy

§4.123—Neuritis cranial or peripheral

§4.124—Neuralgia, cranial or peripheral

§4.124a—Schedule of ratings—neurological conditions and convulsive disorders

#### N----MENTAL DISORDERS

§4.125—Diagnosis of mental disorders

§4.126—Evaluation of disability from mental disorders

§4.127—Intellectual disability (intellectual developmental disorder) and personality disorders

§4.128—Convalescence ratings following extended hospitalization

§4.129—Mental disorders due to traumatic stress

§4.130—Schedule of ratings-mental disorders

#### O----DENTAL AND ORAL CONDIITIONS

§4.150—Schedule of ratings—dental and oral conditions