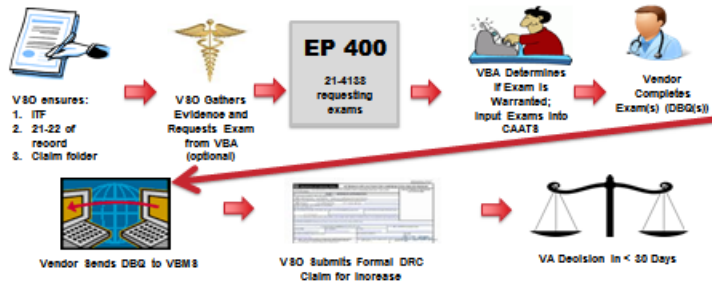


Decision Ready Claim (DRC)



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Claims for Increase

- DBQs may be necessary but are always relevant
- Focus on relevant evidence gathering
 - Appropriate DBQs for the increase conditions
 - Avoid blanket VAMC requests
 - Private medical, MTF, and Vet Center
 - Relevant to issue claimed (ex. Paragraph 29, 30)
- Avoid raising VA's further duty to assist

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Exclusions

Current pending disability claim	Conditions already at scheduler maximum	Special Monthly Pension
DRC conditions on appeal	Individual Unemployability	Restricted Access Claims
DRC application submissions signed by just VSO	Pregnant Veterans	In-service death
Pre-discharge	Ch.18 and birth defect	Foreign Veterans
Incarcerated Veterans	Pension	Stand-alone SMC

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Evidence for Increase Claims

Mandatory	Optional	Not required
(VAF 21-22 in VBMS)	Dependency forms	STRs
(Active ITF)	MTF records	Personnel file
21-526ez signed by Veteran	VAMC records	DD-214
DBQs or	Vet Center Records	
Med evidence	Private medical	



Special Monthly Compensation

Evidence Requirements	Excluded
VA 21-526ez with SMC contention	21-2680 without 21-526ez
VA 21-2680 (SC conditions)	If no DBQs are submitted
DBQs for each issue	If NSC conditions are causing the need for AA/HB
	Spousal Aid and Attendance



Records Development Overview

Record Type	Development Method
Military treatment facility	Veteran requests via Tricare online
Private treatment records	Veteran contacts private provider
Vet Center records	Veteran contacts Vet Center
VAMC records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VSO/POA uses CAPRI or Veteran uses MyhealthVet or Contact the VAMC release of information



Private Treatment Records

- **Do not submit VAF 21-4142 and 21-4142a**
- Use direct upload upon submission
- Have Veteran contact and obtain the relevant records through the provider (.pdf is recommended)

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Recap

- What documents need to be in the file prior to the examination request phase?
- What type of claims are eligible?
- Can we accept 21-526? 21-526b?
- Who needs to sign the application?
- What's the suggested contention wording?

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Answers: Recap

- What documents need to be in the file prior to the examination request phase?
21-22, ITF, and electronic claim folder
- What type of claims are eligible?
Increase only, minus exceptions
- Can we accept 21-526? 21-526b? **No**
- Who needs to sign the application? **Veteran**
- What's the suggested contention wording?
From the rating code sheet

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Questions: