Your VA Claim Exam

KNOW WHAT'S NEXT

If you've filed a claim with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for compensation or pension benefits, VA may ask you to go to an examination as part of the claim process. This is known as a VA claim exam or a compensation & pension (C&P) exam.

Your VA Claim Exam: Know What's Next

FACT SHEET | AUGUST 2016

Compensation & Pension Exams

The VA claim exam is different from a regular medical appointment because the examiner won't prescribe any medicine or treat you for your disability. This exam occurs only if you file a compensation or pension claim. It is a part of the claim review process and helps VA determine if your disability is service connected, the level of your disability, or if your condition should receive an increased rating due to it worsening.

The amount of time the examiner spends with you during your exam depends on what conditions you claimed and if VA needs more information to make a decision. The length of your visit could be very short, or last an hour or more.

THE EXAMINER MAY:

- ✓ Ask you questions
- ✓ Observe your behavior
- ✓ Perform a limited physical exam
- ✓ Simply review your file with you

Each exam is different. Remember, your in-person visit is only one part of the claim review process. Typically, examiners spend time before and/or after your appointment reviewing your medical records. Even if your visit is short, he or she is still carefully reviewing your claim.

SCHEDULING OF THE EXAM

After you submit your claim, you may receive a phone call or a letter from VA or a VA partner asking you to come to one or more claim exams. Not every application for a benefit will require an exam; it depends on what medical evidence has been included with the application.

Contact VA immediately at the number provided to reschedule your exam if you have a conflict with your exam time. Try not to reschedule on the day before or day of the exam.

It is important to attend your VA claim exam.

Missing your exam could cause VA to delay its decision on your claim or rate your claim "as-is" (i.e. only using the information that is in your file).

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/

Reach out to your local Veterans Service Organization

Call 1-800-827-1000

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Are your Medical Records Complete?

If you have medical documents that you have not yet sent to VA, you can bring them to your claim exam. However, the examiner cannot submit that information to be part of your claim on your behalf. Ideally, you should submit all of your medical evidence with your claim application or before your claim exam. This will help the examiner have the most complete picture of your health status.

Travel Expenses

If you are scheduled for one or more claim exam appointments, you can request travel reimbursement. Mileage is calculated from your door to the exam facility. Your travel pay request will be submitted to the beneficiary travel office.

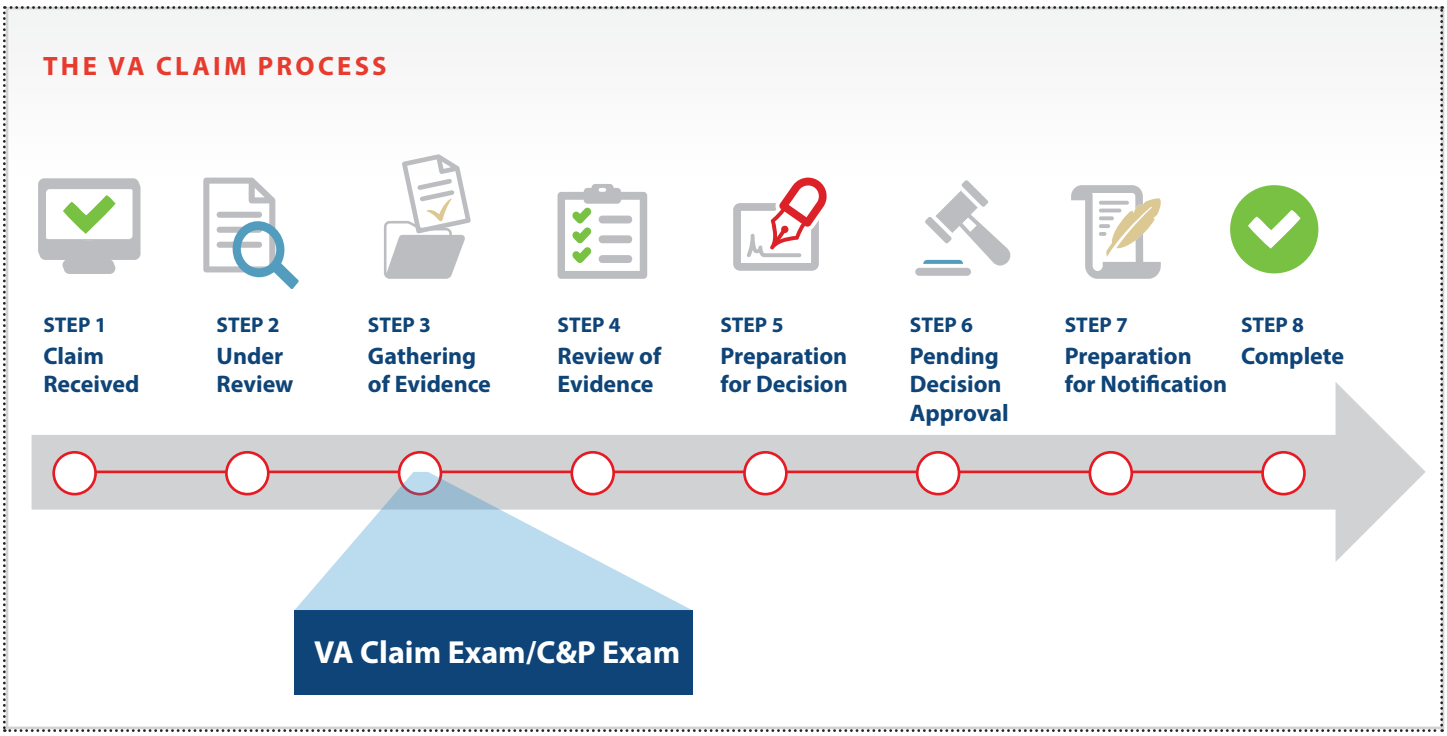
After the Exam

Following your exam, a report will be sent to a VA claims processor and added to your claim file. It will be used along with your claim application to make a decision on your claim.

REMEMBER: The examiner is only involved in performing the claim exam. They do not make the rating decision. Only a VA regional office can answer questions regarding your claim.

Make Sure VA has Your Current Contact Information

Make sure that both the VA regional office and the VA medical center nearest to you have your current address, phone, and email information. This will help VA more quickly communicate with you about any need for a claim exam appointment.



! Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.

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