### Section D. Codesheet Section

#### Overview

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| In This Section | This section contains the following topics |

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| Topic | Topic Name |
| 1 (old 13) | System Generated Data Table Entries and the Jurisdiction Part of the Codesheet |
| 2 (old 14) | Additional Service Codes |
| 3 (old 15) | Combat Status Codes |
| 4 (old 16) | Special Provision Codes |
| 5 (old 18) | Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) Codes |
| 6 (old 20) | Special Notations and Notification Templates |
| 7 (old 21) | Signature |
| 8 | Non-binding Rating Decisions |
| 9 (old 22) | Exhibit 1: Sample Draft Codesheet for a clear and unmistakable error (CUE) Rating Decision, 38 CFR 3.105(a) |
| 10 | Exhibit 2: Sample Draft Codesheet for Application of the Amputation Rule, 38 CFR 4.68 |

#### 1. System Generated Data Table Entries and the Jurisdiction Part of the Codesheet

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| Introduction | This topic contains information about the system generated data table entries on the *Jurisdiction* part of the *Codesheet*, including   * system generated data table entries organized by field, and * the *Jurisdiction* part of the *Codesheet*. |

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| a. System Generated Data Table Entries Organized by Field | Use the table below to determine when entries are generated by the system in the fields of the data table on the *Codesheet* based on user entered data on the Master Record tab and/or Decision Input screens.  ***Note***: Each page of the rating decision contains a heading with information identifying the claimant and rating.  ***Reference***: For further information on preparing a rating decision using Veterans Benefits Management System – Rating (VBMS-R), see the[*VBMS-R User Guide*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/VBMS/Resources_Technical_Information.asp) |

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| Field | When Entry Is Generated | Reference |
| Active duty dates, branch, and character of discharge | Entry generated for the initial rating decision.  ***Note***: The entries remain the same on subsequent rating decisions unless changed. | --- |
| Additional service code | Entry generated for the initial rating decision, if applicable. | See M21-1, Part III, Subpart iv, 6.D.2. |
| Combat status code | Entry generated for the initial rating decision that addresses service connection.  ***Note***: There is no need for a later entry unless the combat status has changed. | See M21-1, Part III, Subpart iv, 6.D.3. |
| Special provision code | Entry generated only if applicable to current or future benefit entitlement. | See M21-1, Part III, Subpart iv, 6.D.4 |
| Special monthly compensation (SMC) code | Entry generated only if applicable to current or future benefit entitlement.  ***Note***: The SMC table is part of the *Special Monthly Compensation* part of the coded conclusion. The table appears only when SMC is granted at some point in time. | See M21-1, Part III, Subpart iv, 6.D.5. |

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| b. Jurisdiction Part of the Codesheet | The *Jurisdiction* part of the *Codesheet*   * appears below the heading section * explains why the case is before the rating activity * refers to the claim at issue, and * cites the pertinent jurisdictional date(s). |

#### 2. Additional Service Codes

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| Introduction | This topic contains information about additional service codes, including   * generating additional service codes, and * description of the codes. |

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| Change Date | December 13, 2005 |

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| a. Generating Additional Service Codes | The additional service code is automatically generated, when, for example, the Rating Veterans Service Representative (RVSR) selects *combat related*. |

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| b. Description of the Codes | Use the table below for a description of additional service codes. |

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| Code | Description |
| 1-WT | Indicates additional service, some of which occurred during a wartime period. |
| 2-PTE | Indicates additional service, all occurring during a peacetime period. |
| 3-SCD | Establishes entitlement in a pension rating based on the existence of a service-connected disability at the time of separation for which discharge or release was or would have been granted, as provided in [38 CFR 3.3(a)(1)(ii)](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=a727f36cb770fa4afb9a9c4075b60e0e&node=se38.1.3_13&rgn=div8) and [38 CFR 3.3(a)(3)(ii)](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=a727f36cb770fa4afb9a9c4075b60e0e&node=se38.1.3_13&rgn=div8).  ***Note***: This code is used only in pension ratings for Veterans with less than 90 days of service. |
| WWI-Service in Russia | Indicates whether or not there was service in Russia that qualifies as World War I (WWI) service.  ***Note***: The narrative must show whether or not there was service in Russia in cases where the Veteran had no active service during the inclusive dates for WWI, April 6, 1917, to November 11,1918, but did serve thereafter, on or before April 1, 1920. |

#### 3. Combat Status Codes

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| Introduction | This topic contains information about combat codes, including   * definition of combat disability, and * description of combat status codes. |

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| Change Date | December 13, 2005 |

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| a. Definition: Combat Disability | The term “combat disability” applies to any injury incurred in action against an enemy of the United States or as a result of an act of such an enemy. These injuries include   * wounds by missiles (bullets or shrapnel) * psychological trauma or posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) experienced in accidents, explosions, or airplane crashes during a period when the Veteran was in combat * diseases directly attributable to exposure to the elements as a result of action against the enemy or by the enemy, such as exposure following an airplane crash or shipwreck   ***Reference:*** For more information on combat-related disabilities, see M21-1 Part IV, Subpart ii, 2.B.4. |

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| b. Description of Combat Status Codes | The table below contains descriptions for each of the four combat status codes. |

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| Code | Description |
| 1-None | Indicates no combat disabilities. |
| 2-(Comp.) | One or more combat disabilities, all of which are compensable. |
| 3-(Noncomp.) | One or more combat disabilities, none of which are compensable. |
| 4-(Both) | One or more combat disabilities, not all of which are compensable. |

#### 4. Special Provision Codes

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| Introduction | This topic contains information on special provision codes, including   * definition of special provision codes * data capture of special provision codes * special provision code 1 * special provision code 2 * special provision code 3 * special provision code 4 * special provision code 5 * special provision code 6, * special provision code 7, and * examples of special provision code 6 indicating computer audit acceptance. |

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| a. Definition: Special Provision Codes | ***“***Special provision codes” are used to identify those rating cases that contain an evaluation or combined degree that would *not* ordinarily be acceptable but for a special provision of the rating schedule or other VA regulation. |

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| b. Data Capture of Special Provision Codes | VBMS-R captures the required special provision code data for *Codesheet* entry during the selection from the SPECIAL PROVISION drop-down on the ISSUE MANAGEMENT tab, initial ISSUE MANAGEMENT screen.  ***Note***: Regarding legacy systems   * Special Provision Codes 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 are generated automatically when applicable, and * 3 and 6 must be entered in the appropriate block  Reference: For further information on selection of special provisions, see the [VBMS-R User Guide](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/VBMS/Resources_Technical_Information.asp). |

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| c. Special ProvisionCode 1 | Special Provision Code 1 indicates Medal of Honor pension under [38 CFR 3.802](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=917ee51c13f157d03a52bc47a0ac429d&node=se38.1.3_1802&rgn=div8). |

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| d. Special ProvisionCode 2 | Special Provision Code 2 indicates Naval pension allowance under [38 CFR 3.803](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=917ee51c13f157d03a52bc47a0ac429d&node=se38.1.3_1803&rgn=div8). |

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| e. Special ProvisionCode 3 | Special Provision Code 3 indicates extra-schedular entitlement to individual unemployability or pension under [38 CFR 3.321(b)](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=10bc4e5549aeabd8073591e830706a78&node=se38.1.3_1321&rgn=div8).  ***Note***: In legacy systems, any extra-schedular evaluation was identified by entry of “*ES*” following the specific diagnostic code. |

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| f. Special ProvisionCode 4 | Special Provision Code 4 indicates an under-schedular evaluation (by reason of deduction of the pre-service level of disability) to a pre-service disability aggravated by service.  ***Note***: In legacy systems, any under-schedular evaluation was identified by entry of *“US”* following the specific diagnostic code.  ***Reference***: For more information on rating disabilities aggravated by service, see [38 CFR 3.322(a)](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=10bc4e5549aeabd8073591e830706a78&node=se38.1.3_1322&rgn=div8). |

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| g. Special ProvisionCode 5 | Special Provision Code 5 indicates Veteran Incarcerated - Pension awarded to dependents under [38 CFR 3.666](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=917ee51c13f157d03a52bc47a0ac429d&node=se38.1.3_1666&rgn=div8). |

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| h. Special ProvisionCode 6 | Special Provision Code 6 indicates   * computer audit acceptance of any combination of the special provision codes * a total evaluation is continued because it is protected under [38 CFR 3.951](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=10bc4e5549aeabd8073591e830706a78&node=se38.1.3_1951&rgn=div8), or * acceptance of a combined evaluation that is not justified by the individual evaluations. |

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| i. Special ProvisionCode 7 | Code 7 indicates Disability or Death Compensation (DIC) under [38 U.S.C. 1151](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/38/1151). |

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| j. Examples of Special Provision Code 6 Indicating Computer Audit Acceptance | The following are examples of the use of special provision code 6 when a combined evaluation is not justified by the individual evaluation in cases   * when graduated evaluations are assigned for two or more diagnoses of inactive tuberculosis that may not be combined * when an independent respiratory condition is assigned in addition to a graduated evaluation for pulmonary tuberculosis that may not be combined * when the combined evaluation exceeds the maximum allowable under the amputation rule in a case, such as two or more independent disabilities affecting one extremity (Use of code 6 provides for computer audit acceptance of valid diagnostic codes at any evaluation and a combined degree of less than the normal value of the individual evaluation.) * when a ten percent combined evaluation may be assigned under [38 CFR 3.324](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=10bc4e5549aeabd8073591e830706a78&node=se38.1.3_1342&rgn=div8), such as two or more separate noncompensable disabilities, including disabilities under [38 U.S.C. 1151](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/38/1151), and * when two or more conditions are assigned separate evaluations considered as one for the purpose of meeting the 40 percent or 60 percent single disability requirement of [38 CFR 4.16](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=2d16e9065fa8c6f81bc6cfe871c4aaa2&node=se38.1.4_116&rgn=div8) in the rating schedule. |

#### 5. Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) Codes

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| **Introduction** | This topic contains information on SMC codes. |

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| **a. SMC Codes** | VBMS-R captures the required SMC code data for *Codesheet* entry during data entry on the SMC Rating Tab.  ***References***: For more information, see   * M21-1, Part IV, Subpart ii, 2.H * the [*VBMS-R User Guide*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/VBMS/Resources_Technical_Information.asp), and * the [*SMC Calculator User Guide*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/21/systems/docs/SMCUG.doc). |

#### 6. Special Notations and Notification Templates

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| Introduction | This topic contains information on use of the SPECIAL NOTATION field and notification template, including   * purpose of special notations and notification templates * special notation field * 38 CFR 4.68 amputation rule template * 38 CFR 3.105(a) grant template, clear and unmistakable error (CUE) * accrued grant template, and * special coding for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) |

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| a. Purpose of Special Notations and Notification Templates | The primary purposes of notations made in the SPECIAL NOTATION field and the notification template fields on the *Codesheet* are   * to record special remarks or approvals applicable to the rating decision, and * to communicate an instruction or administrative message to a Veterans Service Representative (VSR).   ***Note***: All special notations and templates are generated through input in the Issue Management tab of VBMS-R.  ***Reference***: For further information, see the [*VBMS-R User Guide*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/VBMS/Resources_Technical_Information.asp)*.* |

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| b. Special Notation Field | Use the SPECIAL NOTATION field to communicate an instruction or administrative message to the VSR. Clarify if the message is solely administrative (for example, *Cancel the erroneously established EP 930*) or to be shared with the Veteran (for example, *Tell the Veteran the STRs submitted are duplicative and are returned for his use*).  ***Note***: The special notation text appears at the bottom of the *Codesheet* prior to the signature(s).  ***Reference***: For more information, see the [*VBMS-R User Guide*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/VBMS/Resources_Technical_Information.asp)*.* |

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| c. 38 CFR 4.68, Amputation Rule Template | Use the amputation rule template field to list the disabilities and evaluations included in the application of the amputation rule.  Show the current combined evaluation in effect, along with the exceeded evaluation percentage for the specific diagnostic code that apply under the provisions of [38 CFR 4.68](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=b85f19511b8f3c63d754c2bc99533e7b&node=se38.1.4_168&rgn=div8).  ***Note***: The amputation rule text appears at the bottom of the *Codesheet* prior to the signature(s).  ***Reference***: For more information, see the [VBMS Job Aid- Amputation Rule for VBMS-R](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/VBMS/docs/VBMS_Job_Aid_Amputation_Rule_Job_Aid_082613_v_5_0.pdf). |

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| d. 38 CFR 3.105(a) CUE Grant Template | Use the [38 CFR 3.105(a)](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=b85f19511b8f3c63d754c2bc99533e7b&node=se38.1.3_1105&rgn=div8) grant template when granting a clear and unmistakable error (CUE) claim.  Show the current evaluation in effect followed by the future reduced evaluation in ratings that apply the provisions of [38 CFR 3.105(e)](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=b85f19511b8f3c63d754c2bc99533e7b&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfr3_main_02.tpl).  ***Note***: The [38 CFR 3.105(a)](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=b85f19511b8f3c63d754c2bc99533e7b&node=se38.1.3_1105&rgn=div8) template is comprised of both automated text and free text. It appears at the top of the first page of the *Codesheet* below the data tables.  ***References***: For more information, see   * M21-1, Part III, Subpart iv, 6.D.9, and * the [*VBMS-R User Guide*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/VBMS/Resources_Technical_Information.asp). |

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| e. Accrued Grant Template | When granting an accrued benefit claim, use the template language generated by selecting the accrued grant radio button in VBMS-R.  ***Note***: The accrued template is only available for selection if the Veteran is deceased. When generated, the accrued grant template will appear at the top of the first page of the *Codesheet* below the data tables.  ***Reference***: For more information, see the [*VBMS-R User Guide*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/VBMS/Resources_Technical_Information.asp). |

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| **f. Special Coding for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives** | When completing the subject line on the ISSUE MANAGEMENT screen in VBMS-R, end the description of the disability with *chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives* (CBRNE). Both grants and denials of service connection should be annotated.  ***Reference***: For more information, see   * M21-1, Part IV, Subpart ii,1.H, and * the [*VBMS-R User Guide*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/VBMS/Resources_Technical_Information.asp). |

#### 7. Signature

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| Introduction | This topic contains information on the signature line on rating decisions, including   * signatures on rating decisions * single signature ratings * two signature ratings * obtaining additional signatures in VBMS, and * signatures by substitute RVSRs. |

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| a. Signatures on Rating Decisions | Ratings must be signed, electronically, on the bottom of the last page of the *Codesheet*, as a “wet signature” is no longer required.  In the AUTHOR SIGNATURE LINEfield enter: *I certify that I have reviewed and electronically signed this decision*, followed by the decision maker’s name or other identifying mark.  ***Exception***: For rating decisions completed in legacy systems, a “wet signature” is required on the bottom of the last page of the *Codesheet*.  ***Notes***:   * For rating decisions that require only one signature, RVSRs or Decision Review Officers (DROs) will configure their electronic signature in VBMS-R. * For ratings that require two or more signatures, RVSRs or DROs will use a [*VA Form 21-0961*, *Electronic Signatures*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21-0961-ARE.pdf), to obtain signatures.   ***Important***: The signature of the decision maker(s) certifies that the claims folder was reviewed and all phases of the claims process leading to the decision were correctly handled.  ***Reference***:For more information on electronically signing a rating decision, see the[*VBMS-R User Guide*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/VBMS/Resources_Technical_Information.asp). |

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| b. Single Signature Ratings | Single signature authority is restricted to RVSRs whose ability to produce quality work independently without additional oversight has been demonstrated by review.  ***Note***: Authority for single signature may   * vary among different regional offices (ROs) and RVSRs depending on local circumstances * be granted to an RVSR for specific types of ratings as he/she demonstrates the requisite skill and understanding needed to ensure quality. |

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| c. Two-Signature Ratings | All rating decisions require the signatures of two decision makers, unless approved as single signature ratings by the VSCM/PMCM.  The following rating decisions ***always*** require two signatures:   * SMC at a rate greater than SMC (l) * traumatic brain injuries(TBI) until a decision maker has demonstrated a 90 percent accuracy rate or greater on a minimum of 10 TBI cases * CUEs * extra-schedular pension * former prisoners of war (FPOW), and * proposals to sever a service connected condition.   The VSCM/PMCM *may* require two signatures for ratings that   * deal with other special or complex issues, such as * Gulf War claims, and * claims for exposure to herbicide agents, radiation, or mustard gas.   ***Reference***: For more information on signatures in CUE cases, see M21-1, Part III, Subpart iv, 2.B. |

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| **d. Obtaining Additional Signatures in VBMS** | The table below describes the steps involved in obtaining second/third signatures in VBMS.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Step** | **Action** | | 1 | Complete the top section of the *VA Form 21-0961*. | | 2 | Click on the FIRST SIGNATUREfield on the form, then, click *Sign*. | | 3 | Save the form in the same location as the draft rating  *Narrative* and draft rating  *Codesheet*. | | 4 | Enter your PIN or LAN password, as applicable, in the ACTIVCLIENT LOGIN box. | | 5 | Navigate to the VBMS Work Queue and reassign the claim to the second/third signature reviewer by either   * selecting *Reassign* in the ACTION dropdown, or * selecting the *Work Item ID*. | | 6 | Select the second/third signature reviewer’s name from the REASSIGN WORK ITEM dropdown list, and add a note stating the location of the draft rating and the *VA Form 21-096*1. | | 7 | After the second/third signatures are obtained, upload the *VA Form 21-0961* to the eFolder. Then delete the draft decision and shared version of *VA Form 21-0961*, as well as all notes in the claim screen regarding the decision review. | | 8 | Select *Finalize Rating* on the Document tab in VBMS-R. This will upload the *Narrative* and *Codesheet* to the eFolder. | |

#### 8. Non-Binding Rating Decisions

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| Introduction | This topic contains information on when VA is not bound by a signed rating decision. |

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| a. When VA is Not Bound by a Signed Rating Decision | VA is not bound by rating decisions, in the following circumstances,when signed   * preliminary rating decisions for an Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) participant that is returned to active duty if * the participant’s service department returns him/her to duty, based on disenrollment or a Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) or Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) determination, and * the participant subsequently files a claim for VA benefits, to include a Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) or Quick Start claim * after the date of the Veteran’s death, and before the fact of death was known.   ***Important***: If VA receives notification the Service Member has been retained on active duty, the benefit would be discontinued or suspended the same day as the effective date of the award until VA receives verification of the date of discharge. The benefit would be reinstated the day after discharge if the Veteran submits a claim for reinstatement within one year of that date. For more information, see M21-1, Part III, v.4.C.  ***Note***: Do *not* destroy ratings.  ***Reference***: For information about appeals pending at the Veteran’s death, see M21-1, Part I, 5.J.50. For more information about IDES participant’s preliminary rating decisions, see M21-1, Part III, i.2.D.21.r. |

#### 9. Exhibit 1: Sample Draft Codesheet for a CUE Rating Decision, 38 CFR 3.105(a)

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| Introduction | This exhibit contains a sample draft *Codesheet* for a rating decision awarding benefits on the basis of CUE under 38 CFR 3.105(a). |

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| a. Sample Draft Codesheet, CUE Rating Decision, 38 CFR 3.105(a) | This exhibit contains a sample draft *Codesheet* for a CUE rating decision, [38 CFR 3.105(a)](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=b85f19511b8f3c63d754c2bc99533e7b&node=se38.1.3_1105&rgn=div8). |

10. Exhibit 2: Sample Draft Codesheet for Application of the Amputation Rule, 38 CFR 4.68

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| Introduction | This exhibit contains a sample draft *Codesheet* for application of the amputation rule, 38 CFR 4.68. |

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| a. Sample Draft Codesheet, Amputation Rule, 38 CFR 4.68 | This exhibit contains a sample draft *Codesheet* for application of the amputation rule, [38 CFR 4.68](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=c9416a175e18e733d08d2e9157a541f4&node=se38.1.4_168&rgn=div8). |