

eClaims and Electronic Fully Developed Claims: The Fastest Way to Get a VA Claim Decision

DESCRIPTION *This drop-in article can be inserted into a newsletter (print or electronic) that directly targets Veterans. This brief, informative article emphasizes filing an eClaim and an electronic Fully Developed Claim for disability compensation as the fastest ways to get a VA claim decision. This article can also be customized, but inserting your organization name into the highlighted field.*

If you're a Veteran that needs to file a disability compensation claim for the first time or you need to submit a new claim for a previous service-related condition, there is now a faster, easier way to get a claim decision. With the help of your local **[insert VSO organization name here]** Veterans Service Officer, you can file an electronic claim, or eClaim, through eBenefits and get a faster VA decision.

What is an eClaim? VA now offers Veterans the ability to initiate and submit claims online through the VA/DOD eBenefits web portal. All you need is a free Level 2 Premium eBenefits account to start your eClaim today. An eClaim removes all of the paper clutter connected with filing a traditional paper claim. You can now directly submit your information online into VA's claims processing system. This allows VA to more quickly process your information and make a faster claim decision. For an even faster disability compensation claim decision, Veterans can also choose to file an electronic Fully Developed Claim (FDC) through eBenefits.

What is an electronic Fully Developed Claim (FDC)? When you provide all required evidence at the same time you submit a claim electronically through eBenefits AND certify that you have no more evidence, you are filing an electronic FDC. Providing all your documentation up front helps VA issue the fastest claim decision possible. Be aware, your claim will be removed from the FDC Program and processed through the traditional claim route if you do not include sufficient evidence, fail to attend your VA medical appointment, or if additional evidence is received after submission. You can learn more about the FDC Program and filing an eClaim at www.benefits.va.gov/fdc or visit the VBA Media & Publications Page to view informative videos on these topics.

Contact your appointed Veterans Service Officer for help filing an eClaim or electronic FDC, or visit www.eBenefits.va.gov and follow the guided step-by-step process. Agents at VA's toll-free number 1-800-827-1000 can also answer any questions you may have. Don't get stuck waiting for a claim decision longer than you have to – take control of your claim and file an eClaim today!

