



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
Washington, D.C. 20420

July 29, 2010

Director (00/21)
All VA Regional Offices and Centers

Fast Letter 10-14 Revised

SUBJ: Procedural Change Regarding Routine Future Examinations

Revision

This fast letter is revised to comport with [38 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) § 3.344](#). We changed the information on handling the results of a routine future examination on page 2.

Purpose

At the recent VBA Leadership Workshop, a recommendation was made to modify compensation claims processing procedures to schedule routine future examinations at 5-year intervals instead of 2-year intervals. This fast letter implements this procedural change to aid in the reduction of the rating-related claims inventory.

Procedure

This procedural change applies to reexaminations under [38 CFR §3.327](#) and is effective immediately. Claims should be thoroughly analyzed to determine if a routine future examination is necessary. Once it is determined that a routine future examination is needed, schedule the examination 5 years from the date of the rating decision, with the following exceptions:

- Prestabilization rating decisions under [38 CFR §3.327\(b\)\(1\)](#).
- Discharge from military service due to a mental disorder caused by traumatic stress under [38 CFR §4.129](#).
- Malignancies that require reevaluation 6 months following cessation of treatment for active disease.
- Any other future examination required under other sections of [38 CFR Part 3](#) and [Part 4](#).

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[38 CFR §3.327](#) states that reexaminations, including periods of hospital observation, will be requested whenever VA determines there is a need to verify either the continued existence or the current severity of a disability.

Reexaminations will be required if it is likely that a disability has improved, or if evidence indicates there has been a material change in a disability or the current rating may be incorrect.

Routine future examinations established prior to the date of this fast letter (excluding the exceptions listed above) will be automatically rescheduled for 5 years from the date of the rating decision through a software program. Regional offices will be notified when this has been completed. Until notified, all routine future examinations that mature should be advanced to a date 5 years from the date of the rating decision that established the need for the routine future examination.

[Per 38 CFR §3.344\(a\)](#), when the results of a routine future examination (set at 5 years out) show improvement of a disability that is subject to temporary or episodic improvement, a reduction in evaluation cannot be made based on only one examination, unless all the evidence of record clearly warrants the conclusion that sustained improvement has been demonstrated. The second examination should be scheduled for 18, 24, or 30 months from the date of the new rating decision per [38 CFR §3.344\(b\)](#). Note that the provisions of [38 CFR §3.344\(a\)](#) and (b) do not apply to disabilities which have not become stabilized and are likely to improve. Reexaminations showing improvement in these disabilities will warrant reduction in rating.

Adjudicate and promulgate all routine future examinations under end product 310 and 810 work items.

Point of Contact

Questions about this fast letter should be submitted to [VAVBAWAS/CO/212A](#).

/S/

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Director

Compensation and Pension Service