



# YOUR VA CLAIM EXAM: KNOW WHAT'S NEXT

## 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.

## 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.

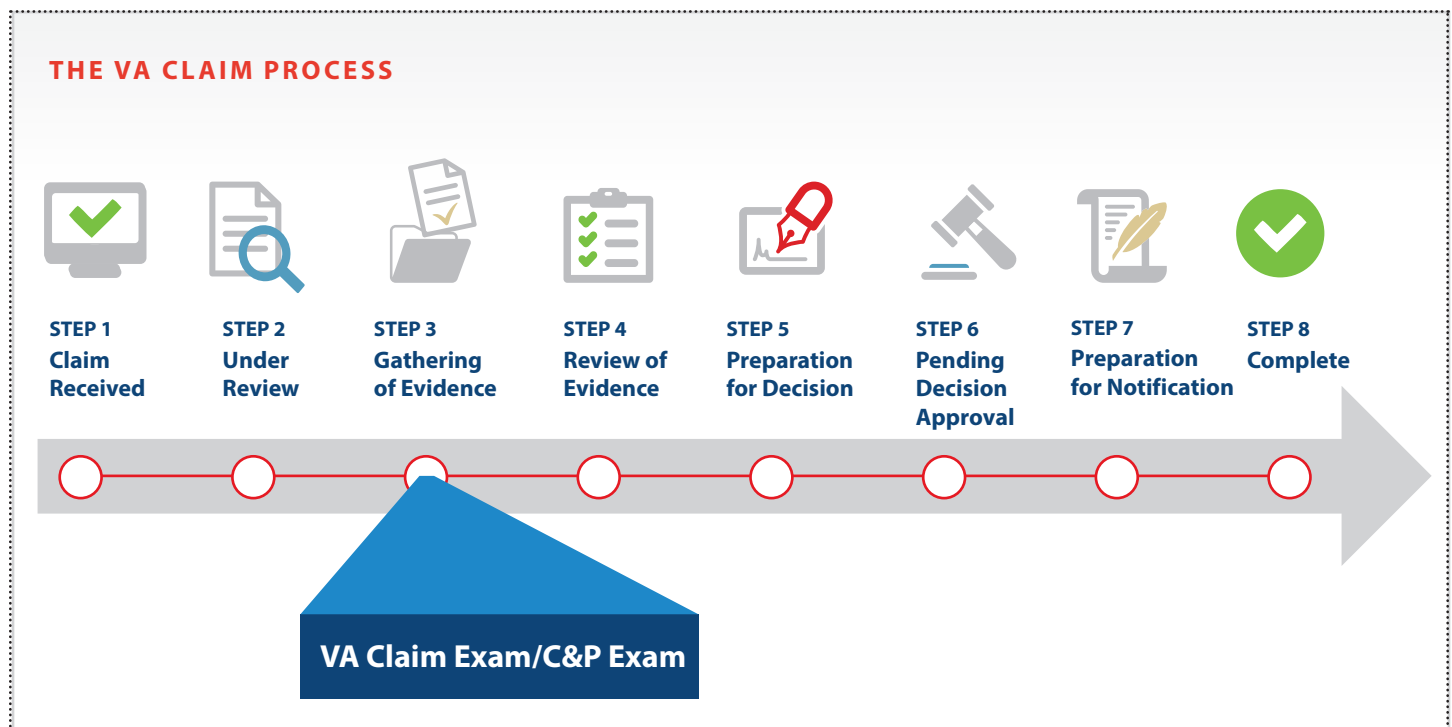
## After the Exam

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.

## When Will I Get My Rating?

While every claim is different, it takes VA an average of three to four months to process a claim from beginning to end. Processing times depend on how complex your claim is and the number of conditions you've claimed. For the most recent average-time estimate, please visit [www.vets.gov/disability-benefits/apply-for-benefits](http://www.vets.gov/disability-benefits/apply-for-benefits).



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.