

# VA COMPENSATION & PENSION

## Understanding Review Examinations

### WHAT ARE REVIEW EXAMINATIONS?

Review examinations are requested by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to check the severity of your service-connected disability.

### WHY ARE REVIEW EXAMINATIONS REQUESTED?

VA will request review exams when:

- ▶ We need to assess the severity of a disability, or
- ▶ Evidence indicates there has been an important and relevant (or "material") change in a disability, or
- ▶ By law, we are required to conduct a periodic review.

VA will use this review exam, and any other relevant evidence, to assess the severity of your disability.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE VA REVIEW EXAM?

A medical professional will conduct the VA review exams. Examiners and staff will not be able to answer specific questions about your benefits; their role is to assess your medical condition.

Note: You may be examined in-person, or you may be questioned by telephone if we decide an in-person exam is not necessary. Sometimes the VA examiner may be able to complete the exam report by reviewing your medical records without an in-person exam or call.

The time you will spend with the clinician varies from person to person based on your conditions.

The examiner may take various actions such as:

- ▶ Ask you questions.
- ▶ Perform a physical exam.
- ▶ Send you for X-rays or lab work.
- ▶ Observe your behavior.
- ▶ Review your file with you.

### WHAT IF THE SEVERITY OF MY DISABILITY HAS CHANGED?

Based on a review of your disability, we will prepare a new decision and contact you by mail. One of three things will happen:

1. Your disability remains the same, or
2. Your disability has worsened and an increase in benefits may be appropriate, or
3. Your disability has improved and a reduction in benefits may be appropriate.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T GO TO MY REVIEW EXAMINATION?

**If you miss your review exam, it may negatively affect your benefits.** Please call us to reschedule if you cannot attend. If you do not attend your exam VA is required by law to propose a reduction or termination of your benefits.

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

For more information, visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claimexam.asp>



**Your VA Claim Exam**  
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