

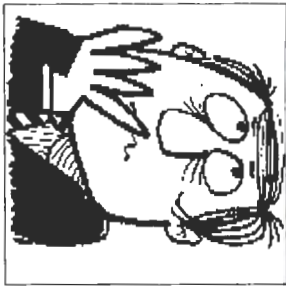
Why do I have to go for an exam?



When you filed a claim for VA benefits, either non-service connected disability pension or service connected disability compensation, the medical evidence submitted with the claim may have been insufficient to rate your disabilities. If you advised VA that you have no local doctor, it is necessary that an examination be performed so that you will be afforded the best possible chance to obtain the benefit you are seeking.

The VA Regional Office has asked the VA medical facility in your jurisdiction to perform a specific examination to determine the extent of your disabilities for rating purposes. This examination is very important and you need to keep the appointment if you want to be awarded any benefit from VA that you may have applied for.

What about the examination?



You will be examined by either a VA staff physician or a physician under contract to the Department of Veterans Affairs, possibly at a facility separate from the VA Medical Center or Outpatient Clinic. If you have any questions about your exam, please bring them up with the doctor. Do not wait until you have returned home to ask questions that should be answered by the physician. If you have any questions about your examination which you feel were not completely responded to by the examining physician, please inform the appropriate processing staff.

DO NOT LEAVE WITHOUT GETTING ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS.

The doctor will only be examining you for conditions that the VA Regional Office has authorized. He will not treat you or write prescriptions for you. You are there for an examination only, not treatment. You should also keep in mind that establishing service connection for a disability or determining a percentage of disability for compensation or pension purposes are decisions to be made by the VA Regional Office, not the examiner. The VA Regional Office will receive your exam results.

Helping the doctor with your exam will be physician's assistants, nurses and medical technicians. Such studies as lab work and x-rays may be ordered by the physician who examines you. Other tests may be completed on the same day, or you may need to return to have them completed at a future date. Exams can be complex and may require all day or more than one day to complete.

What Can I Do To Help?

The examining process can be helped if you give a complete history of your past and present medical problems. Cooperate fully with the examiner and answer all questions with details about your medical conditions. If the examiner asks how you are, respond by giving information about your conditions, not by saying you are OK. If you are having a better than normal day, express that to the examiner so that he knows you may have worse days than he is seeing. If you normally wear braces, use a cane or some other special item, be sure to do so on the day of the exam.

You may, if you choose, provide additional medical information about the illness or injury for which you are being examined. If you are being seen by a private physician you should send copies of those treatment records to the VA Regional Office. If you are being seen at a VA Medical Facility, you should advise the VA Regional Office of dates and places of treatment so they may obtain necessary medical treatment records. The VARO does not know about treatment unless you tell them. VA Medical Centers do not report treatment information to the VARO unless they receive a request for it.

What Should I Do If I Can't Keep An Exam Appointment?

It is extremely important to keep appointments if at all possible. If you miss a Compensation or Pension exam, a decision about your future benefits will be delayed. If you currently receive benefits and miss an exam, they could be suspended. Awards of future benefits can be delayed until such time as an examination can be completed.

VA is allowed to reschedule you once for a new examination. If you reschedule and miss that appointment as well, the claim will be returned to the VA Regional Office unprocessed.

If you are unable to keep your appointment, you should contact the C&P Unit at the medical center that scheduled it.

Will I Be Paid For My Travel?

You will receive a travel voucher at the time you get notification to report for the exam. You need to complete the highlighted items listing the miles traveled round trip and sign the form. The form must be returned to the Medical Center that scheduled the exam. A mileage check will be issued to you in about 30 days.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES IN OHIO

Brecksville VA Medical Center
10000 Brecksville Rd., Brecksville, Ohio 44141
440-526-3030

Chillicothe VA Medical Center
17273 State Route 104, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
740-773-1141

Cincinnati VA Medical Center
3200 Vine St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45220
513-861-3100

Cleveland VA Medical Center
10701 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106
216-791-3800

Dayton VA Medical Center
4100 W. Third St., Dayton, Ohio 45428
937-268-6511

Columbus VA Outpatient Clinic
543 Taylor Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43203
614-257-5200

Toledo VA Outpatient Clinic
3333 Glendale Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43614
419-259-2000

Cleveland VA Regional Office
1240 E. Ninth St., Cleveland, Ohio 44199
1-800-827-1000

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Greene County Veterans' Services
571 Ledbetter Road
Xenia, Ohio 45385
(937) 562-6020

How To Survive Your VA Exam



A Self Help Guide
Getting The Most Out of a
VA Examination for
Compensation or Pension