

EVIDENCE THAT ANSWERS THE PRIOR DENIAL

Match the new document to the exact element, rating fact, or effective-date fact that remains disputed.



METHOD	GOAL	AVOID
Reason to evidence	Answer the missing fact	Generic document dumping

REVIEW FIRST

The best Supplemental Claim evidence is not the most impressive document in isolation. It is the document that directly answers the reason VA gave for the prior result.

SERVICE CONNECTION | MISSING ELEMENTS

MATCH EVIDENCE TO THE SERVICE-CONNECTION GAP

DX	No current disability established	Current clinical findings, diagnosis, testing, or competent evidence of present functional impairment.
EVT	No in-service event, injury, disease, or exposure	Service records, unit or incident records, personnel evidence, witness statements, or qualifying exposure evidence.
NEX	No medical link	A reasoned medical opinion addressing the exact direct, secondary-causation, aggravation, or continuity question.
AGG	Aggravation not established	Evidence of baseline severity, measurable worsening, mechanism, and why the increase is beyond expected natural progression when that distinction matters.

RATING | MISSING SEVERITY FACTS

MATCH EVIDENCE TO THE RATING GAP

FREQ	TEST	FUNC
Frequency and duration	Objective measurements	Functional impact
Logs, treatment notes, and statements showing how often episodes occur and how long they last.	Current imaging, laboratory values, range-of-motion findings, pulmonary tests, audiograms, or other required testing.	Specific effects on work, attendance, mobility, self-care, concentration, and ordinary daily activity.

EFFECTIVE DATE | MISSING TIMELINE FACTS

MATCH EVIDENCE TO THE DATE DISPUTE

FILE	ENT	RULE
Filing history	Date entitlement arose	Special effective-date rule
Submission receipts, Intent to File confirmation, prior forms, and decision notices showing the procedural chain.	Medical, service, dependency, or factual records bearing on when the legal entitlement requirements were met.	Evidence and argument tied to the applicable separation, increase, liberalizing-law, Nehmer, CUE, or other rule.

QUALITY CONTROL | BEFORE SUBMISSION

ASK FOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT EVERY NEW ITEM

✓	Was it previously considered?
	If yes, explain what genuinely new information the current submission adds.
✓	Which disputed fact does it address?
	Name the prior reason or rating criterion.
✓	Is the source competent for that fact?
	Observation, diagnosis, nexus, measurement, and legal argument require different support.
✓	Can the reviewer find the useful part quickly?
	Use filenames, an evidence index, dates, and page citations.

ONE DOCUMENT CAN ANSWER ONE GAP

Do not expect a treatment record, witness statement, or medical opinion to prove every element. Assign each document the job it is competent to perform.