

INCREASED RATING AND EFFECTIVE-DATE REVIEW

Match worsening evidence to the date each higher criterion became factually supportable.

RESPIRATORY FIELD NOTES

VERIFY EACH ROUTE

WORSEN

Identify the changed criterion

Was the change a PFT threshold, daily medication, systemic steroid courses, monthly exacerbation care, or respiratory failure?

DATE

Build a dated timeline

Use prescriptions, encounter records, PFTs, and claim-stream documents.

LAW

Apply the correct authority

Presumptive and liberalizing-law effective dates require claim-specific analysis. Avoid universal cutoff statements.

PROTECT

Review procedure

If VA proposes a reduction, review examination adequacy, sustained improvement, notice, and hearing rights.

