

CROHN'S DISEASE

VA CLAIM GUIDE

Inflammation, treatment intensity, and daily impact belong in the same record.

STATIC
REFERENCE

IBD // DC 7326

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01

WHAT THE CURRENT RATING FRAMEWORK ASKS FOR

CROHN'S IS INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE, NOT IBS

A clear diagnosis matters. Current DC 7326 looks beyond the label to treatment, recurrent pain, daily diarrhea, systemic effects, hospital care, and work impact.

CONFIRMATION

Endoscopy or radiologic studies must confirm the diagnosis.

TREATMENT

Document prescribed therapy, biologics, steroids, surgery, and response.

SEVERITY

Track pain, diarrhea, fever, anemia, weight effects, hospitalization, and inability to work.

02

SERVICE-CONNECTION PATHS

DIRECT

In-service onset, illness, exposure, or event plus a medical link to the current disease.

SECONDARY

A service-connected condition or its treatment caused or aggravated Crohn's disease.

IMPORTANT

The Gulf War functional-GI framework may apply to IBS, but Crohn's is a structural inflammatory disease.

04

BUILD THE RECORD

1

DIAGNOSIS

Colonoscopy, biopsy, imaging, and specialist findings.

2

FLARE PATTERN

Stool frequency, pain, duration, and recovery between flares.

3

OBJECTIVE EFFECTS

Anemia, inflammation, nutrition, weight change, fever, or tachycardia.

4

TREATMENT

Medication, biologics, steroid courses, response, and side effects.

5

MAJOR CARE

Hospitalizations, bowel resection, ostomy, or other procedures.

6

DAILY IMPACT

Missed work, urgent bathroom access, travel limits, and disrupted activities.

06

SECONDARY RELATIONSHIPS APPEARING IN BOARD APPEALS

These are claim patterns, not proof that one condition medically causes another.

THIS CONDITION CLAIMED AS SECONDARY TO

PTSD

OTHER CONDITIONS CLAIMED SECONDARY TO THIS

Depressive disorders // Bowel-resection residuals // Surgical scars // GERD

07

DO THIS, NOT THAT

DO

- Use the exact inflammatory diagnosis.
- Bring the testing and treatment timeline together.
- Describe flare days and ordinary days.

DO NOT

- Call every bowel symptom IBS.
- Rely on a generic article for nexus.
- Leave work and hospitalization effects undocumented.

