

IBS AND IBD

KNOW THE EVIDENCE DIFFERENCE

Similar words. Different disease process. Different proof.

STATIC
REFERENCE

DC 7319 // DC 7326

Similar words. Different disease process. Different proof.

01

WHAT THE CURRENT RATING FRAMEWORK ASKS FOR

IBS IS FUNCTIONAL. IBD IS INFLAMMATORY

IBS is rated under DC 7319. Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis use the IBD criteria at DC 7326. A clean diagnostic distinction prevents the wrong rating facts and service-connection theory from taking over the claim.

IBS

Abdominal pain related to defecation plus bowel-pattern features and frequency.

IBD

Treatment intensity, pain, daily diarrhea, toxicity, hospitalization, and work impact.

TESTING

IBD requires endoscopy or radiologic confirmation. IBS uses a different diagnostic workup.

02

SERVICE-CONNECTION PATHS

DIRECT

For either diagnosis, establish the current condition, in-service facts, and medical link.

SECONDARY

Show causation or aggravation from a service-connected condition or treatment.

GULF WAR

Qualifying functional GI disorders, including IBS, may fit the Gulf War framework. IBD does not become functional IBS.

04

BUILD THE RECORD

1

EXACT DIAGNOSIS

State IBS, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, or another condition.

2

WORKUP

Colonoscopy, imaging, biopsy, labs, stool studies, and specialist conclusions.

3

SYMPTOM TIMELINE

Pain, bowel pattern, bleeding, urgency, flare duration, and triggers.

4

TREATMENT

Diet changes, medication, biologics, steroids, procedures, and response.

5

OBJECTIVE EFFECTS

Inflammation, anemia, weight change, fever, nutrition, and hospitalization.

6

SERVICE FACTS

Onset, deployment history, treatment, exposure, and continuity evidence.

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 // Depressive disorders // GERD // Diabetes // Fibromyalgia

OTHER CONDITIONS CLAIMED SECONDARY TO THIS

Hemorrhoids // GERD // Sphincter-control conditions // Anxiety or depression

07

DO THIS, NOT THAT

DO

- Make the diagnosis explicit.
- Use the matching rating criteria.
- Separate service connection from current severity.

DO NOT

- Treat IBS and IBD as synonyms.
- Assume all bowel disease is presumptive.
- Use symptoms alone to identify inflammation.

