

# CELIAC SERVICE CONNECTION PATHWAYS

Do not confuse a current diagnosis with proof of a service connection.



## WHAT TO DOCUMENT

DIGESTIVE CLAIM FILE

|           |                                                                                                                                   |             |                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DIRECT    | <b>Symptoms or onset in service</b><br>Use service records, lay evidence, testing, continuity, and a medical explanation.         | EXPOSURE    | <b>Evidence-specific theory</b><br>Identify the claimed exposure and obtain a medical rationale rather than assuming a presumption. |
| SECONDARY | <b>Separate medical mechanism</b><br>Show how a service-connected condition or its treatment caused or aggravated celiac disease. | AGGRAVATION | <b>Measurable worsening</b><br>Identify baseline severity and the additional worsening attributed to the primary condition.         |

