



HEARING LOSS AND TINNITUS

TINNITUS DIRECT CLAIMS

WHAT THE DENIALS SHOW

A calibrated guide to service connection, audiology evidence, and VA rating rules.



21,322

CLASSIFIED DENIALS

41%

MISSING NEXUS

40%

NO IN-SERVICE EVENT

19%

MISSING DIAGNOSIS

SHARE OF CLASSIFIED SERVICE-CONNECTION DENIALS

WHY DC 6260 DIRECT CLAIMS ARE DENIED

Missing medical nexus



41%
n = 8,668

No in-service event



40%
n = 8,536

Missing current diagnosis



19%
n = 4,118

Among 21,322 classified service-connection denials. These Board patterns describe the published record and do not predict an individual claim.

THE DIRECT-SERVICE-CONNECTION TEST

ALL THREE ELEMENTS MUST BE SUPPORTED

1

CURRENT DIAGNOSIS

Establish the current hearing or tinnitus disability.

2

IN-SERVICE EVENT

Document hazardous noise, acoustic trauma, onset, or another relevant event.

3

MEDICAL NEXUS

Use a reasoned opinion connecting the current disability to the in-service element.

FILE

COMPLETE HISTORY

Reconcile onset, service records, later testing, and post-service noise exposure.

