



NEXUS LETTER EVIDENCE PACKET CHECKLIST



PREPARE

Give the provider the relevant record, not an unorganized claims-file dump.

A focused packet helps the clinician understand the medical question and reduces factual mistakes. Include unfavorable evidence too, because a persuasive opinion addresses rather than hides it.

1

ONE-PAGE TIMELINE

Service event, symptom onset, diagnosis, treatment, worsening, and major milestones.

2

CURRENT DIAGNOSIS RECORDS

Testing, imaging, specialist notes, problem lists, and treatment history.

3

SERVICE EVIDENCE

Relevant service treatment records, personnel records, exposure evidence, and incident documentation.

4

LAY EVIDENCE

Veteran, family, and buddy statements describing observable symptoms and continuity.

5

PRIOR VA DECISIONS

The evidence list, favorable findings, reasons for denial, and disputed elements.

1

PRIOR C&P EXAMINATIONS

Include both favorable and unfavorable opinions and identify factual errors.

2

PRIMARY-DISABILITY RECORDS

For secondary claims, document the service-connected condition and its treatment.

3

MEDICATION HISTORY

Show timing, dosage, adverse effects, and changes relevant to the proposed mechanism.

4

RELEVANT LITERATURE

Use authoritative sources tied to the specific medical mechanism, not generic search results.

5

EXACT MEDICAL QUESTION

Direct, secondary causation, aggravation, treatment effect, or each link in a chain.

ORGANIZATION

MAKE THE PACKET EASY TO VERIFY

INDEX IT

List each document, date, and page range.

HIGHLIGHT SPARINGLY

Mark key facts without obscuring context.

LABEL THE GAP

Tell the provider what VA disputed or left unanswered.

KEEP A COPY

Preserve the exact packet and final signed opinion.

DO NOT CURATE AWAY BAD FACTS

An opinion built on an incomplete or inaccurate history is vulnerable. Give the clinician enough information to address meaningful competing explanations.

RELEVANT BEATS VOLUMINOUS. The provider needs the evidence necessary to understand the condition, timeline, claim theory, and competing causes.

