



BACK CLAIMS

CERVICAL RANGE-OF-MOTION GUIDE

An orthopedic blueprint for service connection, examination evidence, functional loss, and the current rating schedule.



STRUCTURAL FIELD REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

NORMAL

FORWARD FLEXION TO 45 DEGREES

Normal combined cervical motion is 340 degrees for VA purposes.

10%

FLEXION OVER 30 THROUGH 40

Other 10 percent routes include combined motion over 170 through 335 or specified tenderness, guarding, or spasm.

20%

FLEXION OVER 15 THROUGH 30

Other 20 percent routes include combined motion at 170 or less or guarding or spasm causing abnormal gait or contour.

30/40%

FLEXION AT 15 OR LESS OR ANKYLOSIS

Favorable cervical ankylosis is 30 percent. Unfavorable cervical ankylosis is 40 percent.

Use the regulation in effect for the rating period. Measure functional loss accurately, keep distinct manifestations separate, and avoid compensating the same symptom twice.

