

KNEE CLAIMS

KNEE DIRECT-CLAIM DENIALS

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



10,033

CLASSIFIED DENIALS

41%

NO IN-SERVICE EVENT

35%

MISSING DIAGNOSIS

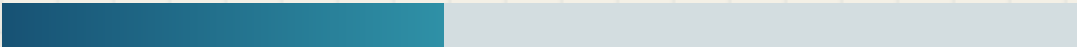
24%

MISSING NEXUS

SHARE OF CLASSIFIED SERVICE-CONNECTION DENIALS

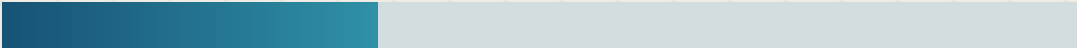
WHY DC 5257 DIRECT CLAIMS ARE DENIED

No in-service event



41%
n = 4,101

Missing current diagnosis



35%
n = 3,515

Missing medical nexus



24%
n = 2,417

Among 10,033 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

Identify the current diagnosed disability and the affected joint or spinal region.

2

IN-SERVICE EVENT

Document injury, symptoms, onset, or another event during qualifying service.

3

MEDICAL NEXUS

Use a reasoned opinion linking the current condition to the in-service element.

FILE

COMPLETE HISTORY

Reconcile service records, lay evidence, post-service injuries, treatment, and symptom progression.