



KNEE CLAIMS

CURRENT KNEE INSTABILITY RATING GUIDE

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



STRUCTURAL FIELD REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

10%

PERSISTENT INSTABILITY WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION

Current DC 5257 includes qualifying ligament or patellar instability that does not require a prescribed brace, cane, or walker.

20%

PRESCRIBED SUPPORT OR REPAIRED PATELLA

The middle tier depends on the precise ligament status or post-surgical patellar condition plus a prescribed device.

30%

COMPLETE TEAR OR POST-SURGICAL PATELLA

The highest tier requires the exact regulatory combination of structural history and prescribed supports.

DATE

CURRENT RULE EFFECTIVE FEB 7, 2021

Earlier rating periods use the former schedule. The version applicable to each period must be identified.

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

