



BACK CLAIMS

SPINE FLARE-UPS AND FUNCTIONAL LOSS

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



STRUCTURAL FIELD REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

PATTERN

DESCRIBE THE FLARE

Record frequency, duration, triggers, pain, spasm, weakness, and recovery.

MOTION

ESTIMATE ADDITIONAL LOSS

An examiner should estimate flare-related limitation from all procurable information when feasible.

FUNCTION

DESCRIBE WHAT STOPS

Document lifting, bending, sitting, standing, walking, sleep, driving, and work restrictions.

ANKYLOSIS

FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENT MAY MATTER

Severe functional fixation during flare-ups requires careful legal and medical analysis, not only a static exam label.

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

