



BACK CLAIMS

RADICULOPATHY AND SEPARATE NEUROLOGIC RATINGS

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



STRUCTURAL FIELD REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

NOTE 1

EVALUATE OBJECTIVE NEUROLOGIC ABNORMALITIES

The spine formula directs separate evaluation under an appropriate diagnostic code.

NERVE

IDENTIFY THE NERVE AND SIDE

Document distribution, sensory change, reflexes, strength, atrophy, EMG findings, and affected extremity.

OTHER

BOWEL OR BLADDER FINDINGS

These and other neurologic abnormalities require prompt medical attention and separate rating analysis when linked.

NO DOUBLE

AVOID OVERLAPPING SYMPTOMS

The same manifestation cannot be compensated twice.

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