

FUTURE REEXAMINATION DECISION TREE

Determine why the examination was scheduled, whether periodic review is limited, and what to do next.



FIRST QUESTION

What authorized the exam?

SECOND QUESTION

Does section 3.327 limit periodic review?

DO NOT IGNORE

Missed-exam rules can affect payment

RULE FILE

An examination notice is not proof that a reduction will occur. It is a request for current evidence. The right response depends on the authority for the examination and the status of the existing award.

TREE 01 | IDENTIFY THE BRANCH

WHY WAS THE EXAMINATION SCHEDULED?



Schedule-required or temporary review

A diagnostic code, prestabilization rating, temporary hospitalization rating, or convalescent rating may require review.

Follow the specific timing rule



Routine periodic reexamination

VA may be checking a disability expected to improve within the ordinary two-to-five-year scheduling range.

Apply section 3.327(b)(2)



Evidence of change or possible error

New information may indicate material change, continued-existence concerns, or that the current rating may be incorrect.

Review authority may remain



Exam connected to a new claim

A claim for increase, secondary condition, or another benefit may require current medical evidence.

Identify which conditions are in scope

TREE 02 | CHECK THE LIMITATION

DOES A NO-PERIODIC-EXAM CATEGORY APPLY?

YES

Static, permanent, stable, over 55, minimum, or no combined effect

Document the category and compare it with the reason stated for the scheduled examination.

BUT

Is this truly periodic?

A section 3.327 limitation on periodic exams may not resolve a specific material-change, error, or schedule-mandated review.

ASK

Request clarification

Use the notice, codesheet, and claim history to ask VA or a representative which condition and authority prompted the examination.

TREE 03 | DO NOT MISS IT

IF ATTENDANCE IS A PROBLEM



Contact VA promptly

Explain scheduling conflicts or good cause and request rescheduling before the appointment when possible.

Keep confirmation



Document good cause

Illness, hospitalization, or another qualifying circumstance should be reported with available evidence.

Do not rely on silence



Answer a pretermination notice

For a running award, section 3.655 provides a 60-day opportunity to report willingness to attend or submit evidence.

A 30-day hearing clock may also apply

CHALLENGE AND ATTEND ARE SEPARATE

Questioning whether a periodic examination was authorized does not safely substitute for appearing, promptly rescheduling, or responding to VA's notice.

