

EVIDENCE IN SMC-M, N, AND O GRANTS

Three low-volume, high-threshold SMC levels show similar evidence patterns but different legal predicates.

643

SMC-M DECISIONS

442

SMC-N DECISIONS

734

SMC-O DECISIONS

100%

PERCENT AXIS CEILING

EVIDENCE CITED IN GRANTS

COUNT AND APPROXIMATE SHARE

SMC-M	SMC-N	SMC-O
Approx. 49% issue-level grant rate	Approx. 37% issue-level grant rate	Direct or stacking path
VA C&P examination272 (76%)	VA C&P examination195 (74%)	VA C&P examination313 (75%)
Private medical records115 (32%)	Private medical records89 (34%)	Private medical records149 (36%)
Buddy or lay statement73 (20%)	Buddy or lay statement62 (24%)	Buddy or lay statement89 (21%)
DBQ56 (16%)	Service treatment records38 (14%)	DBQ51 (12%)
Service treatment records46 (13%)	DBQ32 (12%)	Service treatment records47 (11%)

WHAT CHANGES BY LEVEL

LEGAL PREDICATE

SMC-M Paired loss or loss-of-use findings, knee or elbow factors, or the specified blindness paths.	SMC-N More severe anatomical-loss and no-light-perception requirements. Loss of use is not interchangeable with anatomical loss.
SMC-O A direct catastrophic combination or qualifying separate entitlements without double-counting.	Across all three The examiner must address the exact remaining function, anatomical level, prosthetic factors, and visual findings required by the claimed subsection.

RECURRING DENIAL PATTERNS

PAGE-SPECIFIC REVIEW

SMC-M No documented loss-of-use finding Missing A&A predicate for blindness path Prosthesis evidence does not establish knee factor	SMC-N Anatomical loss not established Light perception remains SMC-O predicate missing before R claim	SMC-O Only one qualifying L-through-N rate established No underlying SMC-L entitlement Stacking relies on double-counting
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Percentages are approximate shares within each level's granted-decision evidence sample. Evidence categories overlap and do not add to 100 percent.

