

SMC APPEALS AND EFFECTIVE DATES

Identify whether the dispute concerns entitlement, level, effective date, reduction, or failure to maximize.

ELIGIBILITY LEDGER

STATUTORY REVIEW

INFER	Reasonably raised entitlement SMC is part of VA's duty to maximize benefits when supported by the record.	DATE	Effective-date theory Use the claim stream, inferred issue, medical evidence, rating decisions, and date entitlement arose.
LEVEL	Wrong-level dispute Map every qualifying loss and care predicate rather than appealing only the payment amount.	LANE	Choose the review lane Higher-Level Review uses the existing record. A Supplemental Claim adds new and relevant evidence. A Board appeal follows its selected docket.

