Rating Decisions
And how we get there
Topics Covered

- Comp and Pen Exam
- Adjudication
- Rating Decision
Comp and Pen Exam

- Why?
- What is it?
- Purpose?
Ordered by the VA to:
- Determine Service Connection
- Gauge the severity of the contention

Not for Treatment

Disability Benefits Questionnaire (DBQ)
- Standardized set of questions to gauge severity
Comp and Pen Exam

- Usually scheduled within 30 days of claim submission
- Can go Contract or stay with the VA

Note:
- Not every contention will warrant a C&P Exam
- Our goal is to get the veteran into the C&P Exam
Adjudication

“In a perfect world”

- Completed DBQ and other evidence is sent to a Rating Veteran Service Rep. (RVSR)

- Criteria on the DBQ is compared to the Rating Schedule for the contention

- RVSR creates the Rating Decision
Adjudication

- The Rating Decision is posted into VBMS for the VSO Review Period.
  - The period in 1 day and 7 hours.

- VSO reviews the proposed Rating Decision
  - Can talk to the RVSR in this period if something is wrong

- Rating is promulgated
Rating Decision

- What is it?
- What are the different parts of the RD?
Rating Decision

- Two Parts
  - Code Sheet – Shows the medical code and the medical term for the S/C contention
    - Not usually given to the veteran
  - Narrative – Explains determination and what evidence was used.
    - This is sent to the veteran
Example

Code Sheet Parts

- Name and Representation
- Active Duty Period(s)
- Future Exam Date
- Service Connected Conditions
- IDC Code
- Combined Evaluation
- Non-Service Connected Conditions
- Deferred Issues
Example

Narrative

- Veteran Name, SSN, and Representation
- Decision Date – Used for Appeal timing
- The VA’s decision
- Evidence used
- Reasons for Decision
  - Current scheduler criteria
  - Increased scheduler criteria