

FACT SHEET

Decision Ready Claims

The **Decision Ready Claim (DRC) Program** is the fastest way to get your claim processed. With the DRC Program, you can get a decision within 30 days after you submit your claim when you work with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO) or other accredited representative. Your VSO will help you gather and submit all relevant records and evidence, including federal and medical records and Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs), and will request your VA claim exam, so your claim is ready for VA to make a decision when you submit it.



What types of claims are eligible for the DRC Program?

Currently, the DRC Program is available for the following types of compensation claims:

- ✓ Direct Service Connection Claims
- ✓ Presumptive Service Connection Claims
- ✓ Secondary Service Connection Claims
- ✓ Increased Disability Claims
- ✓ Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Claims
- ✓ Pre-Discharge Claims

To file a DRC, you must have previously filed a VA claim and received a rating decision from VA on that claim (this does not include Pre-Discharge or DIC claims). You also cannot file your claim through the DRC Program if you currently have another disability claim pending, if you have an appeal pending for the condition you are claiming, or if your claim is related to pension or special monthly compensation (SMC). To see a full list of exclusions that would disqualify your claim from the DRC Program, go to www.benefits.va.gov/drc.

How do I file a claim under the DRC Program?

You must work with an accredited VSO or other accredited representative to file a claim through the DRC Program. You can find an accredited VSO near you and appoint them to serve as your representative free of charge by going to www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/vso-search.

Your accredited representative will help you determine if the DRC Program is right for your claim. They are fully trained on the DRC Program and can serve as a qualified advocate for you.

What information do I need to submit so that my claim is decision-ready?

You will need copies of your federal records, medical records, completed Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs), and any other evidence that supports your claim. Depending on the type of DRC you're filing, you may also need copies of your Service Treatment Records (STRs), the Veteran's death certificate, and all of the Veteran's relevant medical records. Your VSO can also help you gather any medical information you are missing to make sure your claim is complete.

As part of the DRC Program, VSOs can now quickly request a VA claim exam, also called a Compensation & Pension (C&P) exam, for you, if needed, before you submit your claim. Providing all relevant evidence when you submit your DRC allows VA to process your claim faster.

For more information about the DRC Program, go to www.benefits.va.gov/drc or call 1-800-827-1000 (toll-free).

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