

Gulf War Guidelines Examination

Name: _____ SSN: _____

Date of Exam: _____ C-number: _____

Place of Exam: _____

Introduction

Disability examinations of Gulf War veterans have unique requirements because this group of veterans is eligible for compensation not only for disability due to diagnosed illnesses, but also for disability due to *undiagnosed* illnesses. An undiagnosed illness is established when findings are present that cannot be attributed to a known, clearly defined diagnosis, after all likely diagnostic possibilities for such abnormalities have been ruled out. Examiners should follow the guidelines in the "Handout of Instructions for Compensation and Pension Examinations" but will also need to request more laboratory tests and specialists' examinations than average in these cases.

Guidelines

1. Thoroughly review the claims file.
2. Address all conditions and symptoms specified on the examination request *and* also address all additional conditions and symptoms that you can elicit from the veteran during the examination, *even if not specified on the request form*.
3. Conduct a comprehensive general medical examination, following the AMIE General Medical Examination worksheet. For all conditions and symptoms which the General Medical Examination worksheet does not address in detail, follow the appropriate additional AMIE worksheets, and request specialists' examinations as indicated. Provide details about the onset, frequency, duration, and severity of *all* complaints and state what precipitates and what relieves them.
4. List all diagnosed conditions and state which symptoms, abnormal physical findings, and abnormal laboratory test results are associated with *each*. If all symptoms, abnormal physical findings, and abnormal laboratory test results are associated with a diagnosed condition, additional specialist examinations for diagnostic purposes are not needed. Diagnosed conditions will be handled as standard claims for service connection. Symptom-based "diagnoses" such as (but not limited to) myalgia, arthralgia, headache, and diarrhea, are not considered as diagnosed conditions for compensation purposes.
5. However, if there *are* symptoms, abnormal physical findings, or abnormal laboratory test results that have *not* been determined to be part of a known clinical diagnosis, *further specialist examinations* will be required to address these findings.
6. Provide the specialist with all examination reports and test results. Specify the symptoms, abnormal physical findings, and abnormal laboratory test results that have *not* been attributed

to a known clinical diagnosis. Request that the specialist determine which of these, if any, can be attributed in this veteran to a known clinical diagnosis and which, if any, *cannot* be attributed in this veteran to a known clinical diagnosis.

7. After the specialists' examinations have been completed, and all laboratory test results received, make a final report providing a list of diagnosed conditions. Separately list all symptoms, abnormal physical findings, and abnormal laboratory test results that cannot be attributed to a known clinical diagnosis. Reconcile all differences among the examiners, by consultation or workgroup as necessary, before the examination is returned to the regional office.

Signature:

Date:

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