

What is a Decision Ready Claim (DRC)?

The DRC Program allows you to submit VA compensation claims that are decision-ready so you can get your claim processed as fast as possible.

To submit a DRC, you must:

- Appoint and work with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO),
- Gather all relevant and required evidence to support your claim, and
- Attend a VA claim exam, if needed, before submitting your claim.

DRC Submission Process

- Submit through Direct Upload
- Review of completeness by Super User at station (eventually contractor)
- CA reviews for completeness and establishes the claim, issues any exclusion and makes claim RFD
- RVSR makes a decision on the claim

What type of claims can I file through the DRC Program?

- Currently, you can only file a claim for **increased disability** compensation through the DRC Program. Your disability must already be service-connected, and you must have medical evidence to show the condition has gotten worse since your last rating.

Exclusions

Current pending disability claim	Conditions already at scheduler maximum	Special Monthly Pension
DRC conditions on appeal	Individual Unemployability	Restricted Access Claims
DRC application submissions signed by just VSO	Pregnant Veterans	In-service death
Pre-discharge	Ch.18 and birth defect	Foreign Veterans
Incarcerated Veterans	Pension	Stand-alone SMC

Decision Ready Claim (DRC)



VSO ensures:
1. ITF
2. 21-22 of record
3. Claim folder



VSO Gathers Evidence and Requests Exam from VBA (optional)



EP 400

21-4138 requesting exams



VBA Determines if Exam is Warranted; Input Exams Into CAATS



Vendor Completes Exam(s) (DBQ(s))



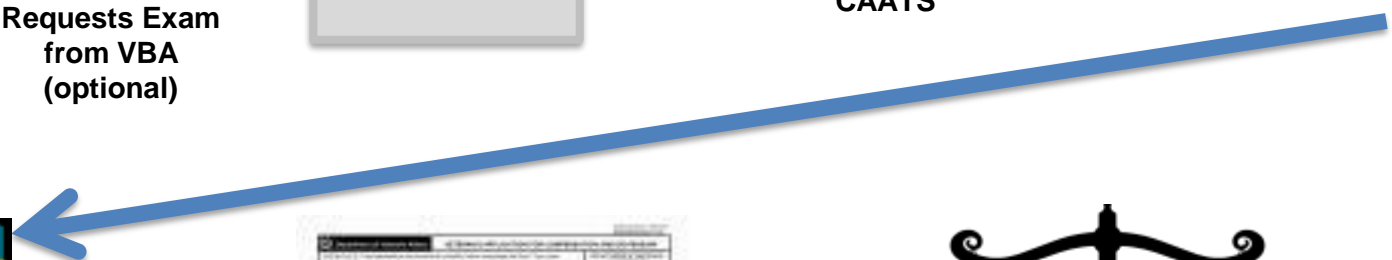
Vendor Sends DBQ to VBMS



VSO Submits Formal DRC Claim for Increase



VA Decision in < 30 Days



ITF Submission

- Submit ITF through normal channels
- Benefit: Compensation or DIC
- Ensure DRC is filed within a year of active ITF
- **IMPORTANT:** remind the Veteran that you will submit 21-526ez within a year after all necessary DRC documents and evidence have been obtained. Veteran should not submit 21-526ez per ITF letter.

VA Form 21-526ez

- Will need signature of Veteran as it satisfies 5103 notification
- List increase claims only and SMC (if claimed)

TIPS:

- Use rating code sheet wording (example Fibromyalgia)
- Enclose additional records or clearly state records are enclosed when listing treatment

Tips for Success

Do	Do not
Ensure entire claim folder, 21-22, and ITF are viewable in VBMS	Request another issue to be examined prior to original DRC establishment
Upload exam related medical records with contract exam request	Mention relevant records on 21-526ez without including and noting they are included
Have Veteran sign 21-526ez	Allow an ITF to expire (1 year)
Use Direct Upload for uploading at time of exam and DRC submission	Submit statements or records without a DRC evidence coversheet

Questions

