

EMS Specialty Examination with Medical Opinion Demonstration Claim

NOTE: All demonstration claims performed by instructors will utilize the same eCase Veteran, Roger Martinez (6Y03XX00), but most will be independent as they offer different facts and documents. It is advised to actively watch and participate in the demonstration, but not attempt to mimic the instructor using your VBMS demo at the same time. You are not required to complete demo claims, but recordings are available when you want to review and apply the skills to required eCases.

ASSUMPTIONS: The Veteran submitted a signed VA Form 21-526EZ (SEPT 2019 Version) and a VA Form 21-4138 on December 1, 2021. He is claiming service connection for a right ankle condition, low back condition, anxiety, and hearing loss with Baltimore VAMC being listed for current treatment. On the VA Form 21-4138 submitted, the Veteran provided the following statement:

“During service I was treated for a right ankle condition, low back condition, and anxiety and these conditions have continued to bother me since my time in service. I believe my hearing loss is caused by my work in engineering operations since it was so loud and hearing protection was not required at the time.”

The following documents are of record in VBMS:

- VBMS, military service indicates he served honorably in the Navy from 08/01/1980 to 07/31/1990. VBMS are updated to show service has been verified.
- VA Form 21-526 received July 5, 1998, claiming right knee condition.
- STRs contain entrance and separation exams, show treatment for right ankle injury while playing soccer in 1988, recurrent knee pain and complaints of anxiety shown on several occasions between 1987 and 1989.
- DD 214 shows an MOS of Engineering Operations.
- CAPRI records have been uploaded and show current treatment for right ankle pain and anxiety only.
- Rating decision dated November 28, 1998 shows granted service connection for right knee strain (10%).
- Notification letter informing the Veteran of the rating decision dated December 1, 1998.