**BCDS Project**

**Glossary of VA Claims Processing Terminology**

| **Term** | **Definition** |
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| Authorization | Formal government approval of award determination (amount of pension, compensation or other benefit, and related evaluation) |
| Award | Final determination of benefit and related decisions (e.g., level of disability, financial eligibility, etc.) |
| Beneficiary | An individual who has been found eligible to receive VA benefits. |
| Claim | A request by an individual seeking one or more benefits and consideration of accompanying evidence of eligibility |
| Claimant | The individual submitting the claim for benefits |
| Claim Development | The collection, synthesis, and evaluation of evidence to support benefit eligibility determination |
| Claim Establishment (CEST) | The formal declaration, by the VA, that the specific claim for benefits has been received, logged into its tracking systems, and is being processed for eligibility and award evaluation |
| Combined Disability Determination (CDD) | A determination of the aggregate level of disability based on individual rating determinations for specific medical issues. |
| Date of Claim | The official date used to document receipt of the claim for benefit eligibility and award computation (the amount of benefit the claimant may receive, etc.) – NOTE: this may NOT be the date of receipt and precedes, by definition, the CEST date. |
| Dependent | An individual(s) who, based on the statute, is eligible for specific benefits based on their relationship to the qualifying service of a Veteran or service member. |
| Death Dependency | A type of benefit (and claim) provided to qualifying dependent(s) of a Veteran upon his/her death – based on relationship, level of dependency/income level. |
| Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) | A type of benefit (and claim) provided to qualifying dependent(s) of a Veteran upon his/her death - based on relationship, level of dependency/income level, etc. |
| Disability Compensation | A type of benefit (and claim) provided to qualifying Veterans or service members for disabilities resulting from military service – the amount is determined based on the severity of the disability(s) |
| End Product (EP) | A set of codes used to describe the various types of claims and related correspondence, inquiries, and other information exchanged in support of Veteran benefits administration. |
| Original claim | The first claim, filed by a Veteran, for a specific benefit. |
| Promulgate | The official act of authorizing distribution of a benefit to a qualifying beneficiary (encompasses Award, Authorization, and Payment) |
| Rating | The act of determining the level of qualifying (service connected) disability for a specific medical issue, and in aggregate for the claimant. |
| Rating Veteran Service Representative | The position, within the VA, responsible for determining the rating for a claim |
| Reopened Claim | A claim by a beneficiary that seeks to modify the existing benefit – this includes claims for increased compensation, reconsideration of the rating determination, or reconsideration of service-connected determinations. |
| Supplemental Claim | A type of reopened claim that seeks to modify the rating determination based on new evidence or a change in the medical or financial condition of the claimant. |
| Veteran | An individual who served in a qualifying branch of the uniformed services and who is no longer actively serving based on retirement, or honorable discharge from their enlistment. |
| Veteran Service Representative | The position, within the VA, responsible for claims development and promulgation. |