

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 4.73

THE FOOT—Continued

| | Rating |
|---|--------|
| Moderate; weight-bearing line over or medial to great toe, inward bowing of the tendo achillis, pain on manipulation and use of the feet, bilateral or unilateral | 10 |
| Mild; symptoms relieved by built-up shoe or arch support | 0 |
| 5277 Weak foot, bilateral: A symptomatic condition secondary to many constitutional conditions, characterized by atrophy of the musculature, disturbed circulation, and weakness: Rate the underlying condition, minimum rating | 10 |
| 5278 Claw foot (pes cavus), acquired: Marked contraction of plantar fascia with dropped forefoot, all toes hammer toes, very painful callosities, marked varus deformity: Bilateral | 50 |
| Unilateral | 30 |
| All toes tending to dorsiflexion, limitation of dorsiflexion at ankle to right angle, shortened plantar fascia, and marked tenderness under metatarsal heads: Bilateral | 30 |
| Unilateral | 20 |
| Great toe dorsiflexed, some limitation of dorsiflexion at ankle, definite tenderness under metatarsal heads: Bilateral | 10 |
| Unilateral | 10 |
| Slight | 0 |
| 5279 Metatarsalgia, anterior (Morton's disease), unilateral, or bilateral | 10 |
| 5280 Hallux valgus, unilateral: Operated with resection of metatarsal head | 10 |
| Severe, if equivalent to amputation of great toe .. | 10 |
| 5281 Hallux rigidus, unilateral, severe: Rate as hallux valgus, severe. Note: Not to be combined with claw foot ratings. | |
| 5282 Hammer toe: All toes, unilateral without claw foot | 10 |
| Single toes | 0 |
| 5283 Tarsal, or metatarsal bones, malunion of, or nonunion of: Severe | 30 |
| Moderately severe | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 |
| NOTE: With actual loss of use of the foot, rate 40 percent. | |
| 5284 Foot injuries, other: Severe | 30 |
| Moderately severe | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 |
| NOTE: With actual loss of use of the foot, rate 40 percent. | |

THE SKULL

| | Rating |
|---|--------|
| 5296 Skull, loss of part of, both inner and outer tables: With brain hernia | 80 |
| Without brain hernia: Area larger than size of a 50-cent piece or 1.140 in ² (7.355 cm ²) | 50 |
| Area intermediate | 30 |
| Area smaller than the size of a 25-cent piece or 0.716 in ² (4.619 cm ²) | 10 |

THE SKULL—Continued

| | Rating |
|---|--------|
| NOTE: Rate separately for intracranial complications. | |

THE RIBS

| | Rating |
|--|--------|
| 5297 Ribs, removal of: More than six | 50 |
| Five or six | 40 |
| Three or four | 30 |
| Two | 20 |
| One or resection of two or more ribs without regeneration | 10 |
| NOTE (1): The rating for rib resection or removal is not to be applied with ratings for purulent pleurisy, lobectomy, pneumonectomy or injuries of pleural cavity. NOTE (2): However, rib resection will be considered as rib removal in thoracoplasty performed for collapse therapy or to accomplish obliteration of space and will be combined with the rating for lung collapse, or with the rating for lobectomy, pneumonectomy or the graduated ratings for pulmonary tuberculosis. | |

THE COCCYX

| | Rating |
|---|--------|
| 5298 Coccyx, removal of: Partial or complete, with painful residuals | 10 |
| Without painful residuals | 0 |

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1155)

[29 FR 6718, May 22, 1964, as amended at 34 FR 5062, Mar. 11, 1969; 40 FR 42536, Sept. 15, 1975; 41 FR 11294, Mar. 18, 1976; 43 FR 45350, Oct. 2, 1978; 51 FR 6411, Feb. 24, 1986; 61 FR 20439, May 7, 1996; 67 FR 48785, July 26, 2002; 67 FR 54349, Aug. 22, 2002; 68 FR 51456, Aug. 27, 2003; 69 FR 32450, June 10, 2004]

§ 4.72 [Reserved]

§ 4.73 Schedule of ratings—muscle injuries.

NOTE: When evaluating any claim involving muscle injuries resulting in loss of use of any extremity or loss of use of both buttocks (diagnostic code 5317, Muscle Group XVII), refer to §3.350 of this chapter to determine whether the veteran may be entitled to special monthly compensation.

THE SHOULDER GIRDLE AND ARM

THE FOREARM AND HAND

| | Rating | |
|---|----------|--------------|
| | Dominant | Non-dominant |
| 5301 Group I. <i>Function:</i> Upward rotation of scapula; elevation of arm above shoulder level. <i>Extrinsic muscles of shoulder girdle:</i> (1) Trapezius; (2) levator scapulae; (3) serratus magnus. | | |
| Severe | 40 | 30 |
| Moderately Severe | 30 | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 | 10 |
| Slight | 0 | 0 |
| 5302 Group II. <i>Function:</i> Depression of arm from vertical overhead to hanging at side (1, 2); downward rotation of scapula (3, 4); 1 and 2 act with Group III in forward and backward swing of arm. <i>Intrinsic muscles of shoulder girdle:</i> (1) Pectoralis major II (costosternal); (2) latissimus dorsi and teres major (teres major, although technically an intrinsic muscle, is included with latissimus dorsi); (3) pectoralis minor; (4) rhomboid. | | |
| Severe | 40 | 30 |
| Moderately Severe | 30 | 20 |
| Moderate | 20 | 20 |
| Slight | 0 | 0 |
| 5303 Group III. <i>Function:</i> Elevation and abduction of arm to level of shoulder; act with 1 and 2 of Group II in forward and backward swing of arm. <i>Intrinsic muscles of shoulder girdle:</i> (1) Pectoralis major I (clavicular); (2) deltoid. | | |
| Severe | 40 | 30 |
| Moderately Severe | 30 | 20 |
| Moderate | 20 | 20 |
| Slight | 0 | 0 |
| 5304 Group IV. <i>Function:</i> Stabilization of shoulder against injury in strong movements, holding head of humerus in socket; abduction; outward rotation and inward rotation of arm. <i>Intrinsic muscles of shoulder girdle:</i> (1) Supraspinatus; (2) infraspinatus and teres minor; (3) subscapularis; (4) coracobrachialis. | | |
| Severe | 30 | 20 |
| Moderately Severe | 20 | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 | 10 |
| Slight | 0 | 0 |
| 5305 Group V. <i>Function:</i> Elbow supination (1) (long head of biceps is stabilizer of shoulder joint); flexion of elbow (1, 2, 3). <i>Flexor muscles of elbow:</i> (1) Biceps; (2) brachialis; (3) brachioradialis. | | |
| Severe | 40 | 30 |
| Moderately Severe | 30 | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 | 10 |
| Slight | 0 | 0 |
| 5306 Group VI. <i>Function:</i> Extension of elbow (long head of triceps is stabilizer of shoulder joint). <i>Extensor muscles of the elbow:</i> (1) Triceps; (2) anconeus. | | |
| Severe | 40 | 30 |
| Moderately Severe | 30 | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 | 10 |
| Slight | 0 | 0 |

| | Rating | |
|---|----------|--------------|
| | Dominant | Non-dominant |
| 5307 Group VII. <i>Function:</i> Flexion of wrist and fingers. <i>Muscles arising from internal condyle of humerus:</i> Flexors of the carpus and long flexors of fingers and thumb; pronator. | | |
| Severe | 40 | 30 |
| Moderately Severe | 30 | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 | 10 |
| Slight | 0 | 0 |
| 5308 Group VIII. <i>Function:</i> Extension of wrist, fingers, and thumb; abduction of thumb. <i>Muscles arising mainly from external condyle of humerus:</i> Extensors of carpus, fingers, and thumb; supinator. | | |
| Severe | 30 | 20 |
| Moderately Severe | 20 | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 | 10 |
| Slight | 0 | 0 |
| 5309 Group IX. <i>Function:</i> The forearm muscles act in strong grasping movements and are supplemented by the intrinsic muscles in delicate manipulative movements. <i>Intrinsic muscles of hand:</i> Thenar eminence; short flexor, opponens, abductor and adductor of thumb; hypothenar eminence; short flexor, opponens and abductor of little finger; 4 lumbricales; 4 dorsal and 3 palmar interossei. | | |
| NOTE: The hand is so compact a structure that isolated muscle injuries are rare, being nearly always complicated with injuries of bones, joints, tendons, etc. Rate on limitation of motion, minimum 10 percent. | | |

THE FOOT AND LEG

| | Rating |
|---|--------|
| 5310 Group X. <i>Function:</i> Movements of forefoot and toes; propulsion thrust in walking. <i>Intrinsic muscles of the foot: Plantar:</i> (1) Flexor digitorum brevis; (2) abductor hallucis; (3) abductor digiti minimi; (4) quadratus plantae; (5) lumbricales; (6) flexor hallucis brevis; (7) adductor hallucis; (8) flexor digiti minimi brevis; (9) dorsal and plantar interossei. Other important plantar structures: Plantar aponeurosis, long plantar and calcaneonavicular ligament, tendons of posterior tibial, peroneus longus, and long flexors of great and little toes. | |
| Severe | 30 |
| Moderately Severe | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 |
| Slight | 0 |
| <i>Dorsal:</i> (1) Extensor hallucis brevis; (2) extensor digitorum brevis. Other important dorsal structures: cruciate, crural, deltoid, and other ligaments; tendons of long extensors of toes and peronei muscles. | |
| Severe | 20 |
| Moderately Severe | 10 |
| Moderate | 10 |
| Slight | 0 |

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THE FOOT AND LEG—Continued

| | Rating |
|--|--------|
| NOTE: Minimum rating for through-and-through wounds of the foot—10. | |
| 5311 Group XI. <i>Function:</i> Propulsion, plantar flexion of foot (1); stabilization of arch (2, 3); flexion of toes (4, 5); Flexion of knee (6). <i>Posterior and lateral crural muscles, and muscles of the calf:</i> (1) Triceps surae (gastrocnemius and soleus); (2) tibialis posterior; (3) peroneus longus; (4) peroneus brevis; (5) flexor hallucis longus; (6) flexor digitorum longus; (7) popliteus; (8) plantaris. | |
| Severe | 30 |
| Moderately Severe | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 |
| Slight | 0 |
| 5312 Group XII. <i>Function:</i> Dorsiflexion (1); extension of toes (2); stabilization of arch (3). <i>Anterior muscles of the leg:</i> (1) Tibialis anterior; (2) extensor digitorum longus; (3) extensor hallucis longus; (4) peroneus tertius. | |
| Severe | 30 |
| Moderately Severe | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 |
| Slight | 0 |

THE PELVIC GIRDLE AND THIGH

| | Rating |
|---|--------|
| 5313 Group XIII. <i>Function:</i> Extension of hip and flexion of knee; outward and inward rotation of flexed knee; acting with rectus femoris and sartorius (see XIV, 1, 2) synchronizing simultaneous flexion of hip and knee and extension of hip and knee by belt-over-pulley action at knee joint. <i>Posterior thigh group, Hamstring complex of 2-joint muscles:</i> (1) Biceps femoris; (2) semimembranosus; (3) semitendinosus. | |
| Severe | 40 |
| Moderately Severe | 30 |
| Moderate | 10 |
| Slight | 0 |
| 5314 Group XIV. <i>Function:</i> Extension of knee (2, 3, 4, 5); simultaneous flexion of hip and flexion of knee (1); tension of fascia lata and iliotibial (Maissiat's) band, acting with XVII (1) in postural support of body (6); acting with hamstrings in synchronizing hip and knee (1, 2). <i>Anterior thigh group:</i> (1) Sartorius; (2) rectus femoris; (3) vastus externus; (4) vastus intermedius; (5) vastus internus; (6) tensor vaginae femoris. | |
| Severe | 40 |
| Moderately Severe | 30 |
| Moderate | 10 |
| Slight | 0 |
| 5315 Group XV. <i>Function:</i> Adduction of hip (1, 2, 3, 4); flexion of hip (1, 2); flexion of knee (4). <i>Mesial thigh group:</i> (1) Adductor longus; (2) adductor brevis; (3) adductor magnus; (4) gracilis. | |
| Severe | 30 |
| Moderately Severe | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 |
| Slight | 0 |
| 5316 Group XVI. <i>Function:</i> Flexion of hip (1, 2, 3). <i>Pelvic girdle group 1:</i> (1) Psoas; (2) iliacus; (3) pectineus. | |
| Severe | 40 |
| Moderately Severe | 30 |
| Moderate | 10 |
| Slight | 0 |

THE PELVIC GIRDLE AND THIGH—Continued

| | Rating |
|---|--------|
| 5317 Group XVII. <i>Function:</i> Extension of hip (1); abduction of thigh; elevation of opposite side of pelvis (2, 3); tension of fascia lata and iliotibial (Maissiat's) band, acting with XIV (6) in postural support of body steadying pelvis upon head of femur and condyles of femur on tibia (1). <i>Pelvic girdle group 2:</i> (1) Gluteus maximus; (2) gluteus medius; (3) gluteus minimus. | |
| Severe | *50 |
| Moderately Severe | 40 |
| Moderate | 20 |
| Slight | 0 |
| 5318 Group XVIII. <i>Function:</i> Outward rotation of thigh and stabilization of hip joint. <i>Pelvic girdle group 3:</i> (1) Piriformis; (2) gemellus (superior or inferior); (3) obturator (external or internal); (4) quadratus femoris. | |
| Severe | 30 |
| Moderately Severe | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 |
| Slight | 0 |

*If bilateral, see § 3.350(a)(3) of this chapter to determine whether the veteran may be entitled to special monthly compensation.

THE TORSO AND NECK

| | Rating |
|---|--------|
| 5319 Group XIX. <i>Function:</i> Support and compression of abdominal wall and lower thorax; flexion and lateral motions of spine; synergists in strong downward movements of arm (1). <i>Muscles of the abdominal wall:</i> (1) Rectus abdominis; (2) external oblique; (3) internal oblique; (4) transversalis; (5) quadratus lumborum. | |
| Severe | 50 |
| Moderately Severe | 30 |
| Moderate | 10 |
| Slight | 0 |
| 5320 Group XX. <i>Function:</i> Postural support of body; extension and lateral movements of spine. <i>Spinal muscles:</i> Sacrospinalis (erector spinae and its prolongations in thoracic and cervical regions). | |
| <i>Cervical and thoracic region:</i> | |
| Severe | 40 |
| Moderately Severe | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 |
| Slight | 0 |
| <i>Lumbar region:</i> | |
| Severe | 60 |
| Moderately Severe | 40 |
| Moderate | 20 |
| Slight | 0 |
| 5321 Group XXI. <i>Function:</i> Respiration. <i>Muscles of respiration:</i> Thoracic muscle group. | |
| Severe or Moderately Severe | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 |
| Slight | 0 |
| 5322 Group XXII. <i>Function:</i> Rotary and forward movements of the head; respiration; deglutition. <i>Muscles of the front of the neck:</i> (Lateral, supra-, and infrahyoid group.) (1) Trapezius I (clavicular insertion); (2) sternocleidomastoid; (3) the "hyoid" muscles; (4) sternothyroid; (5) digastric. | |
| Severe | 30 |
| Moderately Severe | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 |
| Slight | 0 |

§ 4.75

THE TORSO AND NECK—Continued

| | Rating |
|--|--------|
| 5323 Group XXIII. <i>Function:</i> Movements of the head; fixation of shoulder movements. <i>Muscles of the side and back of the neck:</i> Suboccipital; lateral vertebral and anterior vertebral muscles. | |
| Severe | 30 |
| Moderately Severe | 20 |
| Moderate | 10 |
| Slight | 0 |

MISCELLANEOUS

| | Rating |
|--|--------|
| 5324 Diaphragm, rupture of, with herniation. Rate under diagnostic code 7346. | |
| 5325 Muscle injury, facial muscles. Evaluate functional impairment as seventh (facial) cranial nerve neuropathy (diagnostic code 8207), disfiguring scar (diagnostic code 7800), etc. Minimum, if interfering to any extent with mastication—10. | |
| 5326 Muscle hernia, extensive. Without other injury to the muscle—10. | |
| 5327 Muscle, neoplasm of, malignant (excluding soft tissue sarcoma)—100. | |
| NOTE: A rating of 100 percent shall continue beyond the cessation of any surgery, radiation treatment, antineoplastic chemotherapy or other therapeutic procedures. Six months after discontinuance of such treatment, the appropriate disability rating shall be determined by mandatory VA examination. Any change in evaluation based upon that or any subsequent examination shall be subject to the provisions of § 3.105(e) of this chapter. If there has been no local recurrence or metastasis, rate on residual impairment of function. | |
| 5328 Muscle, neoplasm of, benign, postoperative. Rate on impairment of function, <i>i.e.</i> , limitation of motion, or scars, diagnostic code 7805, etc. | |
| 5329 Sarcoma, soft tissue (of muscle, fat, or fibrous connective tissue)—100. | |
| NOTE: A rating of 100 percent shall continue beyond the cessation of any surgery, radiation treatment, antineoplastic chemotherapy or other therapeutic procedures. Six months after discontinuance of such treatment, the appropriate disability rating shall be determined by mandatory VA examination. Any change in evaluation based upon that or any subsequent examination shall be subject to the provisions of § 3.105(e) of this chapter. If there has been no local recurrence or metastasis, rate on residual impairment of function. | |

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1155)

[62 FR 30239, June 3, 1997]

THE ORGANS OF SPECIAL SENSE

§ 4.75 General considerations for evaluating visual impairment.

(a) *Visual impairment.* The evaluation of visual impairment is based on impairment of visual acuity (excluding developmental errors of refraction), visual field, and muscle function.

(b) *Examination for visual impairment.* The examination must be conducted by a licensed optometrist or by a licensed ophthalmologist. The examiner must identify the disease, injury, or other pathologic process responsible for any visual impairment found. Examinations of visual fields or muscle function will be conducted only when there is a medical indication of disease or injury that may be associated with visual field defect or impaired muscle function. Unless medically contraindicated, the fundus must be examined with the claimant's pupils dilated.

(c) *Service-connected visual impairment of only one eye.* Subject to the provisions of 38 CFR 3.383(a), if visual impairment of only one eye is service-connected, the visual acuity of the other eye will be considered to be 20/40 for purposes of evaluating the service-connected visual impairment.

(d) *Maximum evaluation for visual impairment of one eye.* The evaluation for visual impairment of one eye must not exceed 30 percent unless there is anatomical loss of the eye. Combine the evaluation for visual impairment of one eye with evaluations for other disabilities of the same eye that are not based on visual impairment (e.g., disfigurement under diagnostic code 7800).

(e) *Anatomical loss of one eye with inability to wear a prosthesis.* When the claimant has anatomical loss of one eye and is unable to wear a prosthesis, increase the evaluation for visual acuity under diagnostic code 6063 by 10 percent, but the maximum evaluation for visual impairment of both eyes must not exceed 100 percent. A 10-percent increase under this paragraph precludes an evaluation under diagnostic code 7800 based on gross distortion or asymmetry of the eye but not an evaluation under diagnostic code 7800 based on other characteristics of disfigurement.

(f) *Special monthly compensation.* When evaluating visual impairment, refer to 38 CFR 3.350 to determine whether the claimant may be entitled to special monthly compensation. Footnotes in the schedule indicate levels of visual impairment that potentially establish entitlement to special monthly compensation; however, other levels of visual impairment combined