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VA Decision Ready Claims Program Expands to Include More Types of Claims

WASHINGTON — As part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) ongoing efforts to modernize and improve Veterans' experience with the disability claims process, VA unveiled its latest enhancements to the Decision Ready Claims (DRC) program, which will expand the pool of Veterans, surviving spouses and service members eligible to participate in the program.

"These enhancements are another key step in modernizing VA's benefits delivery to Veterans to a fully digital operating environment," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. "With electronic claims processing as a foundation, VA's innovation will improve service to Veterans, their families and survivors."

In addition to claims for increased disability compensation (commonly known as claims for increase), Veterans will now be able to file certain claims for direct service connection, presumptive service connection and secondary service connection. Additionally, surviving spouses will be able to file certain claims for [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#), and transitioning service members will be able to file [pre-discharge claims](#) less than 90 days from leaving the military. Veterans who choose to submit their claim under DRC can expect to receive a decision within 30 days from the time VA receives the claim.

To file under DRC, Veterans must work with an accredited Veteran Service Organization (VSO) representative, who will ensure all supporting evidence — such as medical exams, military service records, etc. — is included with the claim submission. This advance preparation by the VSOs allows claims to be assigned immediately to claims processors for a quick decision.

In the future, VA aims to expand the DRC program, where possible, to ensure more Veterans can get faster decisions on their claims. For more information about DRC or to find an accredited VSO representative, visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/DRC.asp>.

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