FACT SHEET

PRE-DISCHARGE DECISION READY CLAIMS

The DRC Program

The Decision Ready Claim (DRC) Program is the fastest way to get your VA claim processed. With the DRC Program, you can get a decision on your claim within 30 days when you work with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO). Your VSO will schedule your claim exam and help you gather and submit all relevant records and evidence, including federal and medical records and Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs). Including all this required information with your application ensures your claim is ready for VA to make a decision when you submit it.

Filing a Pre-Discharge DRC

If you're a Servicemember who has less than 90 days remaining on active duty, you can work with an accredited VSO to file a Pre-Discharge DRC for VA disability compensation.

You cannot file a Pre-Discharge DRC if you are enrolled in the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) Program. To see a full list of exclusions that would remove your Pre-Discharge claim from the DRC Program, go to www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/drc.asp.

Preparing Your Pre-Discharge DRC for Submission

Your VSO will work with you to gather and submit your Service Treatment Records (STRs) for every period of service and an Intent to File (ITF) at least 35 days before you are discharged from active duty. Submitting this information 35 days before the end of your service allows your VSO to request your claim exam while you are still on active duty, which helps VA make a faster decision on your claim.

Your VSO can still submit your ITF and STRs with less than 35 days left on active duty, but your claim exam will then be conducted after you are separated from service. Your VSO cannot submit your Pre-Discharge DRC until your claim exam is completed.

Submitting Your Pre-Discharge DRC

If you complete your claim exam while on active duty, your VSO can then submit your Pre-Discharge DRC the day after you are discharged from service. If your claim exam is conducted after you have been released from active duty, it will delay when your VSO can submit your Pre-Discharge DRC. Once your DRC is submitted, VA will make a decision on your claim within 30 days.

PRE-DISCHARGE
DECISION READY CLAIMS

Pre-Discharge Claim Program Comparison

VA also offers another program that allows you to file your disability claim before you leave active duty called Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD). You cannot file a Pre-Discharge DRC if you have already filed a BDD claim. Use the chart below to help determine which program is best for you and your claim.

	PRE-DISCHARGE DRC	BENEFITS DELIVERY AT DISCHARGE (BDD)
Do I need to have a service release date to file?	Yes	Yes
How much time do I need to have left on active duty to qualify?	Less than 90 days remaining prior to release from active duty	180-90 days prior to release from active duty
When do I submit my claim?	Your VSO can submit your Pre-Discharge DRC the day after you are released from active duty as long as your claim exam(s) is completed. At that point, your claim will include all the necessary information to allow VA to quickly make a decision.	You can submit your claim at any time within 180-90 days before you are released from active duty.
How do I submit my claim?	You must work with an accredited VSO to file a Pre-discharge DRC.	You can submit your BDD claim online through eBenefits or at any VA location, including military installations with a VA representative.
When do I submit my Service Treatment Records (STRs)?	Your VSO must submit your STRs along with an Intent to File before you are separated from service.	You must submit your STRs at the same time you submit your claim.
When do I have to attend my VA claim exam?	You must attend your claim exam before your Pre-Discharge DRC is submitted. Your VSO must submit your ITF and STRs at least 35 days prior to your release date in order to schedule your claim exam while you're still on active duty. You can also conduct your exam after you have been released from service, but it will delay when your VSO can submit your Pre-Discharge DRC.	Your exam will take place within 45 days after you submit your claim.
When will I get my claim decision?	After your claim is submitted, VA will make a decision on your DRC in 30 days or less.	The goal of the BDD program is to provide a decision on the claim the day following discharge from active duty.

For More Information

Visit www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/drc.asp to learn more about the DRC Program.

To find an accredited VSO near you, go to www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/vso-search.