

# Denied VA Claim Review Checklist

Slow down, identify the denial reason, and prepare better questions before responding.

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## Read the decision letter

- List every issue separately: granted, denied, deferred, remanded, or not addressed.
- Copy the stated reason for each denial in plain language.
- Find favorable findings and preserve them in your notes.
- Write down the date on the letter and any response deadline to verify.

## Identify the missing piece

- Mark whether VA points to diagnosis, in-service event, nexus, severity, continuity, or records.
- List evidence VA says it reviewed and evidence you expected but do not see.
- Identify records, statements, or exams that may answer the missing question.
- Separate evidence gaps from disagreement with how VA weighed the evidence.

## Prepare the next conversation

- Write questions for VA.gov, a VSO, accredited agent, or attorney before choosing a lane.
- Ask what evidence is needed, not just which form to use.
- Do not miss deadlines while gathering records.
- Keep the checklist with your decision letter and any new evidence.

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Educational prep checklist only. ValorAI is not VA, a VSO, an attorney, an accredited claims agent, or a medical provider. This is not legal or medical advice and does not guarantee benefits. Use official VA channels or accredited help when you need filing or representation support.