

Optometry Compensation & Pension

Conference Call Minutes

1/21/2015



10-2014 C&P
optometry workgroup

1) Last meeting minutes; 10/15/2014:



common
conditions.docx

- 2) Evidence-based common condition info: Please send any additional evidence-based supporting references to Makesha or Brian.
- 3) Per Dr. Alan Dinesman: Medical Officer, Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQ); VA Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA); no anticipated changes to current Ophth/Eye DBQ for at least the next six months.
- 4) Optometry Compensation & Pension Training Information (especially useful for any VA OD who has not previously done C & P eye exams):
- The first step that needs to be done prior to performing any C & P eye examinations is to get in touch with your C&P department/Information Technology Office so that you can access to the CAPRI charting system on your computer. In order to become a C & P examiner, you must take a certification computer training course called “DEMO General Certification Overview” through the VA Talent Management System website <https://www.tms.va.gov/learning/user/login.jsp>
 - View the following training presentations (available on the VA Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) Website:

<http://vaww.demo.va.gov/trainingpresentations.asp> (“The Eyes Have It”



3/12/2013) Eye_program_March
_2013_v4PJJ_FINAL

<http://vaww.demo.va.gov/files/C&PAndExaminersRole.ppt> (“C&P and Examiner’s Role” 8/1/2012)

- Excellent C & P information on VA Optometry Intranet website (see “Administrative Page”) <http://vaww.va.gov/optometry/>
 - Please provide name to Kathy Gernhart, kathleen.gernhart@va.gov, VA Optometric Service Administrative Officer so she can add you to the C & P Optometry Working Group E-mail list.
- 5) DBQ OPHTH EYE: Based on guidance provided in the training video from the VA Office of Disability and Medical Assessment:
<http://vaww.demo.va.gov/trainingpresentations.asp>
as well as follow-up correspondence with Patricia Jenkins; Training Specialist, VA Office of Disability and Medical Assessment, that occurred after our teleconference on 21 Jan 2015, optometrists and ophthalmologists who conduct VA C & P examinations only need to complete the relevant portions of the DBQ OPHTH EYE that properly address the ocular condition being asked for by the VA Regional Office in the claim request. In other words, comprehensive ocular examinations do not need to be conducted on each and every veteran being seen with an ocular claim. Tests/portions of the DBQ OPHTH EYE that are not pertinent to the claim request can be excluded. For example, a dilated fundus exam does not need to be done on a veteran being seen for a pinquecula claim. Per Patty Jenkins, since VA C & P exams are medico-legal assessments, they fall under the concept of “forensic medicine” which requires a shift in thinking away from the treatment model most of us are accustomed to. This requires us to maintain a “claim-focused” mindset when conducting our C & P eye exams. (An analogy she supports is the MD/PA/ARNP examiner is not going to listen to a veteran’s heart or even take his BP if a knee claim/DBQ is requested.) The fact that our EYE DBQ is ten pages long when printed out with sections for internal - external ocular

health/tonometry/pupils could certainly lead one to believe every area needs to be completed. Additionally, the upfront statement on the current DBQ that states “Unless medically contraindicated, the fundus must be examined with the veteran’s pupils dilated,” is likely misunderstood and incorrectly sends the message, “Do a comprehensive exam.” Patty agreed that the next version of the EYE DBQ could be modified with a statement to read something like, “If indicated to address the requested claim, and if not medically contraindicated, dilated fundus exam recommended.” She indicated she would provide Dr. Dinesman this suggestion. I hope this helps!

6) Our next teleconference will be 4/15/2015 at 3 pm.