

C&P Optometry call 1/15/2014 @ 3:00 PM Eastern time

Meeting minutes:

Brian LeStrange and Makesha Sink appreciate your participation in the workgroup and please let us know if you have any questions or agenda items for future meetings!

Makesha.sink@va.gov

brian.lestrange@va.gov

1. Appropriate coding for C&P exams: 99456 is examination code, **Diagnosis code: V68.01 (disability exam)**
 - a. For productivity standards this exam code carries ~1.5 RVU value so be sure you are coding for your C&P examinations and getting credit for your workload!
2. DBQ used for IDES examinations as well as C&P exams
 - a. <http://vaww.demo.va.gov/files/DBQsandIDES10022013.docx>
 - b. Remember to always look at the 2507 request to be sure you are performing the requested exam
3. Reminder for Conditions that VARO likes to see Visual Field results
 - a. <http://vaww.demo.va.gov/files/NewsLetters/2013/1stQuarter2013.pdf>
 - b. Comments: when visual field defects are present and not related to condition claimed. Recommend to notate in the Remarks section of the DBQ that "Visual field defects present but there is no decrease in visual acuity or other visual impairment from [claimed condition]."
 - i. Raters just need to know if any vision loss, visual field defects, scarring/disfigurement, etc. are secondary to the claimed condition or not. We do not need to go into detail as to what the cause of any defects is if it not related to the claimed condition.
 - c. Question: If there is no visual field defect is it necessary to check the remaining boxes "no" in the visual field section 10 of the DBQ? No it is not necessary.
 - d. Question: must "normal" visual field results be turned in to regional office to review?
 - i. This may vary from office to office if they have access to scanned Vista-Imaging or if a paper copy is necessary. Discuss with your respective regional offices if it is needed.
4. Most recent DMA Newsletter
 - a. <http://vaww.demo.va.gov/files/NewsLetters/2014/1stQuarter2014.pdf>
5. Dr. Cross' field calls occur Wednesdays and Fridays at noon (VANTS with code 87453#) discusses stats on incoming requests and trends to assist in knowing if your request rate is going up or down.
6. Inside information to share; there are significant and really really good changes going on in the documentation tools that C&P uses for reports and over the next year you will see DBQs being replaced by much more intuitive and less confusing tools. The field is going to really appreciate the new forms that are being developed by actual examiners this time instead of raters. They are a much needed change. Can't wait but will be phased in over the next year so the changes will not be immediate. Also VBA is working to make it easier to "search" in VBMS but no projected date for this. They are also working to streamline service member records access as they are exiting the military.
7. There is still a huge push VA wide to work down the backlog of older claims – if you are having a difficult time seeing your exams on time – discuss with your C&P department and you can use this as a leg for adding FTE, etc if necessary.
8. Walk-in DBQ requests – is this the future? It is happening some but it is unclear if this will become the future of these exams/requests.

The Quarterly Optometry C&P workgroup calls for 2014 are on the following Wednesday dates in order for you to plan to attend. The Agenda for each meeting will come out prior to the meeting and the minutes will be distributed after the meetings.

4/16/2014 @ 3:00PM EST
7/16/2014 @ 3:00PM EST
10/15/2014 @ 3:00PM EST