

DISABILITY ASSESSMENTS

Veterans are: citizens, family members, friends and members of our community. Their service-related injury and/or illness are experiences, not characteristics. With that in mind, we intend to help explain one part of the overall approach through which Veterans Affairs Canada delivers support, programs and services to Canada's Veterans.

DISABILITY ASSESSMENT

A Disability Assessment is an evaluation made by Veterans Affairs Canada to determine fair compensation for an injured and/or ill Veteran's specific pain and suffering related to their service. The overall assessment is presented as a percentage. It is determined by an evidenced-based mathematical calculation on a Veteran's loss of function—per body part or system—as well as the resulting impact on quality of life.

A disability assessment percentage does not equate to a person's overall loss of functionality. As an extreme example, a Disability Assessment of 100% rarely equates to overall functional incapacity. The Disability Assessment percentage is the total of one or more assessments of body parts and systems, both physical and mental. Disability categories that can be rated can include anything from chronic joint pain to loss of limbs and more. All of a Veteran's injury and/or illness ratings are then added together, along with a Quality of Life rating, to make the overall Disability Assessment percentage.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR MEDICAL IMPAIRMENT LEVELS

There are two considerations at the core of a medical impairment assessment: how has the Veteran's service-related injury and/or illness changed the Veteran, and what impact has that made on their ability to care for themselves independently.

QUALITY OF LIFE

A Veteran's quality of life is measured by comparing an existing quality of life to that which he or she expected to experience had the illness and/or injury not occurred. The assessment considers a Veteran's ability to live independently, to participate in community or recreational activities, and to both initiate and participate in personal relationships.

ASSESSMENT METHODS RATIONAL

It applies a standard of fairness to all Veterans.

MENTAL AND PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT

As critical elements of overall well-being, both mental and physical injury and/or illness are taken into account.

