

There are Four Types of claims:

1. **Original Claim:** The very first claim for disability benefits (compensation or pension) filed by a veteran. All original claims must be filed on VA Form 21-526.
2. **Claim for increase:** A claim for increased compensation for a disability already found to be service-connected.
3. **New Claim:** A claim for compensation for a disability not part of the original claim. Also known as a supplemental claim.
4. **Reopened Claim:** A claim asking for reconsideration of an issue previously considered and finally disallowed by VA (after more than one year has passed).

The type of claim determines how much development is required by VA and/or the nature of the supporting evidence the veteran must submit in support of the claim. The processing time for a claim varies depending on the type of claim and the supporting evidence provided by the veteran.