SCAR OVERVIEW

By the end of this briefing YOU:

1. Will know the Definition of a scar.
2. Will be aware of terms relating to scars.
3. Will be familiar with sections/codes used to rate scars.
4. Will know Body Areas used to rate scars.
5. Will be aware of the categories of scars.
6. Will know how scars are measured.
7. Will be aware of disabling conditions beyond just the scar.
8. Will know where to find reference material to assist you and the client.
Definition:

- A mark remaining after the healing of a wound or other morbid process. By extension, any visible manifestation of an earlier event.
Terms to understand:

- **Deep Non-Linear**: Soft Tissue Damage Under Skin
- **Linear Scar**: Straight/line
- **Superficial Non-Linear**: Only the Skin, no soft tissue underneath
- **Non-Linear**: Patches, not thin lined

**Painful or Unstable Scars**: Can be rated twice. Constantly loses healed skin, opens, re-heals, repeat, usually found around joints
Rating Scars:

• Schedule of rating – Skin 4.118-1

• Code #'s: 7800-7805

• If Rated under these codes before 10/23/08 may request a re-evaluation regardless if scar is better or worse.

• WARNING* - Client should always consult with a Service Officer before proceeding with a claim. (Refer to Attachment #3)

• If submitting a claim it will be considered a request for an INCREASE and will not be retroactive back to any date before 10/23/08.
Body Areas Rated

Together:
• Neck and Head
  (refer to attachment #4)

Separately:
• Right Arm
• Left Arm
• Right Leg
• Left Leg
• Front of Torso
• Back of Torso
Four Categories of SCARS:

1. Any scars on or disfigurements of the head, face, or neck (only one overall rating can be given regardless of the number)

2. Scars anywhere else on the body that are linear

3. Scars anywhere else on the body that are non-linear and are deep

4. Scars anywhere else on the body that are non-linear and are superficial

Each of these categories has its own code and ratings.
Measuring of Scars:

1\textsuperscript{st}: Side to Side (widest point)

2\textsuperscript{nd}: Top to Bottom

Example:

- 2 scars
  
- Scar one: 3in long, 2in wide (3\times2=6)
  
- Scar two: 2in long, 1in wide (2\times1=2)
  
- Add final answer for each problem (6+2=8)
  
- This gets you the total scarred area (8in)
  
- For Total Length:
  
- 3in long + 2 inch long = 5in
Measuring of Scars:

Non-linear scars:

It may be necessary to portion the scar into sections that are then measured and their areas added together.

Has to be at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide at widest point. If less than this, doesn’t count.
Information to Consider:

1. Physician should take COLOR PHOTOS

2. If the scars cause other disabling conditions beyond disfigurement, like nerve damage, the inability to properly use the jaw, etc., then those conditions are rated separately. Search for the condition on this site, and then rate accordingly.

3. Likewise, if the fleshy part of the ear is missing, then it is only rated under code 6207, loss of the auricle. If an eye is actually missing, then it is only rated under code 6063, loss of one eye. Both eyes is only rated under code 6061, loss of both eyes. A rating for these conditions can also be warranted under this code if there is scarring or disfigurement in addition to the missing ear or eye.
Information to Consider:

Skin conditions are rated according to the VA Schedule of Ratings Disabilities under Section 4.118, under diagnostic codes 7800 to 7833.

Scars From Burns or Injuries

You may be unaware that, in addition to being eligible for disability compensation for an underlying physical injury, you may also be eligible for additional monthly compensation on the basis of the scar the injury left. In addition to a rating for the scar itself, you can also be eligible for another separate rating based on how painful the scar is. Scars are evaluated under diagnostic codes 7800 to 7805.

Scars on the head, face, or neck are rated based on skin loss and how many facial features have been disfigured. For example, if a scar disfigures the nose only, a 10% rating may be given. Pairs are features are rated together, meaning that if both ears are scarred, only one rating of 10% will be assigned.

Ratings on scars on areas of the body other than the head, face, or neck are generally based on the size of the scar.
Information to Consider:

Dermatitis or Eczema

Ratings for dermatitis or eczema are rated based on how frequently medication is needed to control outbreaks and what percent of the body is affected. For instance, if at least 5% of the body is affected and requires medical treatment, a 10% rating will be assigned. If 40% or more of your skin is affected, and you have had to be on medication nearly constantly for the past year, then a 60% rating is warranted.

Chloracne

Chloracne is rated based on how much of the face and neck it affects and whether it is superficial or deep acne. Deep acne has more inflammation and visible infection, whereas superficial acne is less inflamed. Compensatory ratings are only assigned for deep acne. Ratings of 30% are available for deep acne only when it is on 40% or more of your face and neck.
Information to Consider:

If you have what the VA considers superficial acne, no matter how much of your body it covers, the only rating available is 0%. A 0% rating will not entitle you to disability compensation but will make you eligible for health care and other benefits.

Other compensable skin conditions include skin infections, psoriasis, and acne. If you don't see an evaluation of your skin condition here, you can look for the diagnostic code for your disability in Section 4.118, skin conditions, of the [VA Schedule of Ratings Disabilities](https://www.vascorecard.va.gov/)

**The Gluteal Cleft is not a scar.** (Buttcrack)

**Umbilicus**: the (usually) depressed scar marking the site where the **UMBILICAL CORD** entered the fetus; called also **navel**. (can claim if became a hernia, had surgery and left scar. There are other situations that could have happen leaving a scar in this area) (Miller-Keane Encyclopedia and Dictionary of Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health, Seventh Edition. © 2003 by Saunders, an imprint of Elsevier, Inc. All rights reserved)
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