



Veterans Evaluation Services

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Completing the Interview-based METS Section

For these questions, VA is interested to know how the veteran's heart is functioning and impacting his/her day-to-day activities. We are all aware that many of the veterans have multiple health issues. Commonly, we see combined heart and respiratory and or musculoskeletal issues. VA wants you to interview the veteran and determine what his/her METS are. Once established, they then need apportionment. To the best of your ability, VA wishes to know how much limitation is due to the heart, as opposed to the other medical conditions. Sometimes it is hard to parse this out as the veteran may, for instance, have peripheral neuropathy but also radiculopathy and COPD. As another example, it could be that the veteran's heart condition was an arrhythmia that has now resolved, and 0% of the METS is heart related. In other cases, the ejection fraction may be 20% with a history of CABG or stenting that has left the veteran severely impaired, so 90% of the limitation is for the heart, and maybe 10% is from a back condition. As you know, this is more art than science, but VA does want your considered opinion, so do not be afraid to fill this section out.

Please feel free to contact me at middelj@vesservices.com with any questions.

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