

HOW DISABILITY RATINGS WORK

The VA determines a disability rating after reviewing your service medical records (“SMR”), C&P exam report and any other evidence submitted to them in support of your claim based upon the criteria below. You may have one or more symptoms in a higher disability rating, but still receive a lower rating that reflects where **MOST** of your symptoms are present. If you have multiple injuries, disability ratings are not added together (60% + 40% ≠ 100%). The VA has an internal ranking system of injuries that will determine your final disability rating.

COMMON RATINGS FOR SINUSITIS & SLEEP APNEA

PERCENTAGE	DESCRIPTION
SINUSITIS	
50%	Sinusitis: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following radical surgery with chronic osteomyelitis, or• Near constant sinusitis characterized by headaches, pain and tenderness of affected sinus, and purulent discharge or crusting after repeated surgeries
30%	Sinusitis: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three or more incapacitating episodes per year requiring prolonged (lasting four to six weeks) antibiotic treatment, or;• More than six non-incapacitating episodes per year characterized by headaches, pain, and purulent discharge or crusting
10%	Sinusitis: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One or two incapacitating episodes per year requiring prolonged (lasting four to six weeks) antibiotic treatment, or;• Three to six non-incapacitating episodes per year characterized by headaches, pain, and purulent discharge or crusting
0%	Sinusitis detected by X-ray only
SLEEP APNEA	
100%	Sleep Apnea Syndromes (Obstructive, Central, Mixed): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chronic respiratory failure with carbon dioxide retention or cor pulmonale, or;• Requires tracheostomy
50%	Sleep Apnea Syndromes (Obstructive, Central, Mixed): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires use of breathing assistance device such as continuous airway pressure (CPAP) machine
30%	Sleep Apnea Syndromes (Obstructive, Central, Mixed): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Persistent day-time hypersomnolence
0%	Sleep Apnea Syndromes (Obstructive, Central, Mixed): Asymptomatic but with documented sleep disorder breathing.

If you disagree with your rating, Contact ADVOCATE at (202) 600-7819. You have a limited amount of time to appeal your rating and preserve the effective date of your claim.