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Ways VA Rates Back Pain from Scoliosis

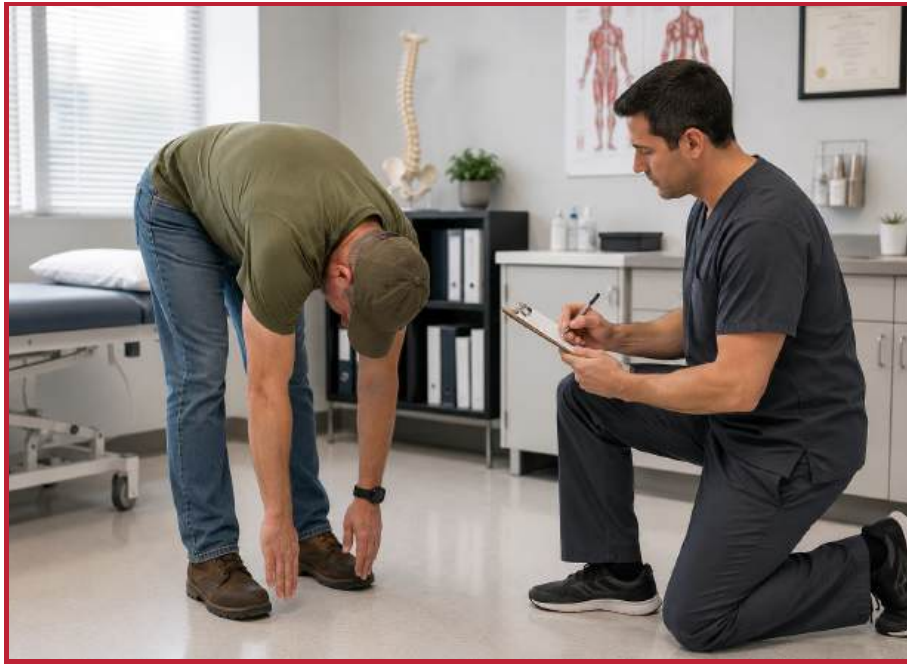
1. What the VA Actually Rates in a Scoliosis Claim

The VA rates scoliosis under the General Rating Formula for Diseases and Injuries of the Spine, focusing on range of motion, muscle spasms, posture, and functional limitations, not the diagnosis alone. Specific clinical language gives the VA a far clearer picture than a general complaint of back pain.



2. Why Range of Motion Matters So Much

Range of motion measurements capture how far you can bend and when pain begins, but the full picture includes how stiffness, fatigue, and flare-ups affect daily function. What you can do once in an exam room may not reflect what you can sustain the rest of the day.



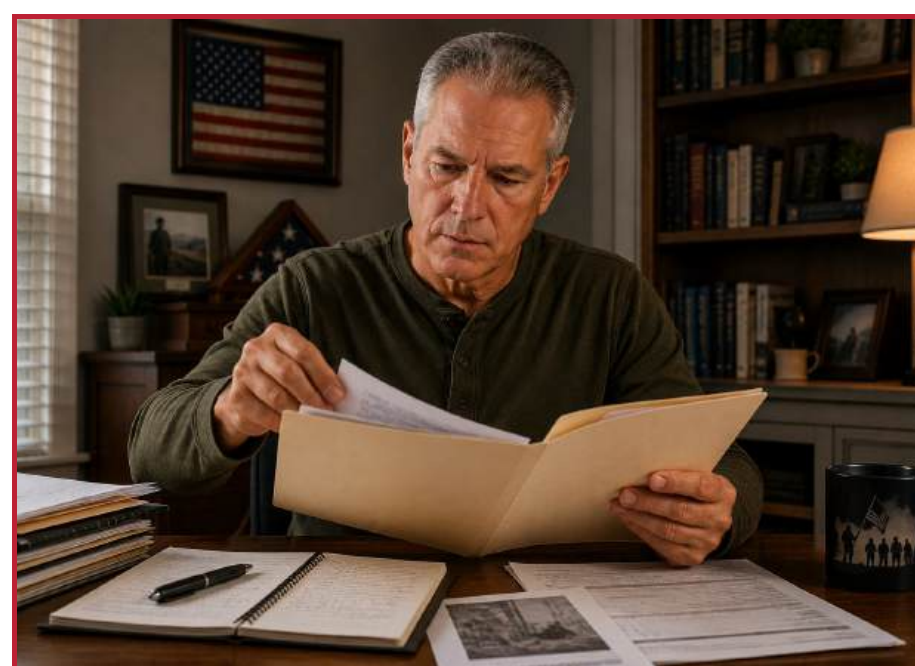
3. Separate Nerve Symptom Ratings

Scoliosis can irritate nearby nerves, producing burning pain, numbness, weakness, or shooting sensations in the hip, leg, or foot. The VA can assign a separate rating for radiculopathy if the evidence supports it, a component many veterans miss that can significantly increase total compensation.



4. Pre-Existing Scoliosis and Service Aggravation

A scoliosis diagnosis before service doesn't automatically block compensation. If military duties like heavy lifting, carrying gear, or airborne training worsened the condition beyond normal progression, a well-supported aggravation theory backed by service records and a nexus letter can still support a successful claim.



5. What Evidence Strengthens This Type of Claim

The strongest claims tell one clear story. A current diagnosis, records linking the condition to service, documentation of worsening over time, and a personal statement describing daily limitations all help the VA connect the dots, and specifics like sleep disruption or inability to lift grandchildren make that picture more compelling.



6. Think Like a VA Reviewer

Prepare your claim with a VA reviewer in mind, focus on diagnosed condition, service connection, objective findings, and everyday limitations. Keep treatment notes current, prepare for the C&P exam by articulating your worst symptoms and flare-ups clearly, and never leave nerve symptoms in the background.



Presented by:

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