

## Neurological Function Medical Impairment Assessment

Veteran	UIN
Please assess the following conditions:	

Where the veteran experiences a fluctuating course or variable presentations of these conditions, select the rating, which reflects the average level of impairment.

1. Please select the most accurate description of any impairment of **memory**.

Description	Select One
Memory is similar to that of peers.	
Mild but demonstrable impairment:	
- Misplaces objects (more than normal).	
<ul> <li>Increased difficulty in remembering names and appointments.</li> </ul>	
- Can learn, although at a slower rate than previously.	
Moderate impairment:	
<ul> <li>Has frequent difficulty in recalling details of recent experiences.</li> </ul>	
- Frequently misplaces objects.	
- Fails to follow through with intentions or obligations.	
- Tends to get lost more easily in unfamiliar areas.	
Significant impairment:	
- Symptoms as above, but more frequent and severe.	
Severe memory deficiency:	
- Unable to retain any information about recent experiences.	
- New learning is not possible after attention has been directed elsewhere.	
<ul> <li>Extreme difficulty in keeping track of finances, scheduled activities, social relationships etc.</li> </ul>	
Gross amnesic syndrome:	
- Unable to acquire or recall new information.	
<ul> <li>Unable to recognise family, own reflection in mirror etc.</li> </ul>	
- Is disoriented in familiar surroundings.	

2. Please select the most accurate description of the **compensatory mechanisms and the need for support** because of memory impairment.

Description	Select One
<b>Independent</b> - written notes and other similar methods may be used in the manner of busy people of all ages.	
<b>Little impact on everyday activity</b> because of compensation through reliance on written notes, schedules, checklists and partner.	
Compensation through <b>use of aids</b> , e.g. lists and diaries, is adequate.	
Partially able to compensate, but unable to function with complete independence, and <b>needs some supervision.</b>	
<b>Unable to work or live independently</b> , needing supervision to avoid harm, e.g. from fire caused by forgetting to put out cigarettes or to turn off appliances.	
Constant supervision and care required.	

3. Please select the most accurate description of any impairment of **reasoning and problem solving**.

Description	Select One
Reasoning is comparable to that of peers.	
Mild impairment:	
- Appropriate use is made of accumulated knowledge.	
- Reasonable judgement is shown in routine activities most of the time.	
- Difficulties are apparent in new circumstances.	
Moderate impairment:	
- Relies on accumulated knowledge when faced with problem solving.	
<ul> <li>Suffers significant disadvantage in circumstances requiring complex decision-making or non-routine activities, i.e. when past decision-making is not directly relevant.</li> </ul>	
- Reduced initiative, spontaneity and capacity for abstract thinking.	
Significant impairment:	
- Symptoms as above, but more frequent and severe.	
Severe impairment:	
<ul> <li>Difficulty in carrying out basic activities such as sequencing the steps needed for dressing and for preparing meals.</li> </ul>	
- Planning / organisational ability reduced.	
<ul> <li>Shows markedly reduced initiative and spontaneity, and / or preservative thinking.</li> </ul>	
Gross impairment:	
- Unable to initiate and sustain activities without supervision.	
- Unable to plan a course of action for the simplest activity.	

4. Please select the most accurate description of the **compensatory mechanisms and the need for support** because of impairment of reasoning and problem solving.

Description	Select One
Independent - no aids or supports required.	
Little impact on everyday activity because of compensation through reliance on written notes, schedules, checklists and partner.	
Partially able to compensate, but unable to function with complete independence and <b>needs some supervision.</b>	
Unable to function independently in new or complex situations.	
Supervision and prompting are required for virtually all daily activity.	

5. Please select the most accurate description of **comprehension of written material**. Do **not** include impairment due to visual loss.

Description	Select One
Normal or almost normal.	
Mild dyslexia:	
<ul> <li>Is able to grasp the basic meaning of written newspaper and magazine articles but has difficulty understanding the detail.</li> </ul>	
- Is unable to follow the storyline in books.	
Moderate dyslexia:	
- Reading comprehension is limited to sentences and short paragraphs.	
- Can follow simple two to three line instructions, and cope with shopping (and other) lists, but nothing more complex.	ng
Severe dyslexia:	
- Able to read single words, and match words to pictures.	
- Able to read simple labels and signs.	
- Unable to read instructions.	
Gross impairment:	
<ul> <li>Unable to understand simple instructions or yes/no questions, even wingestures.</li> </ul>	ith
- Unable to read single words, labels or signs.	

6. Please select the most accurate description of **comprehension of speech and conversation**. Do **not** include impairment due to hearing loss.

Descri	ption	Select One
Norma	al or almost normal.	
Minor	impairment:	
-	Can understand movies, radio programs or group discussions, but with some difficulty.	
-	Comprehension is usually in most situations, but understanding is difficult in large groups, or when tired or upset.	
-	Difficulty coping with rapid changes of topic.	
Mild i	mpairment:	
-	Can understand speech face to face, but confusion or fatigue occurs rapidly in any group.	
-	Unable to cope with rapid change in topic or with complex topics.	
-	Able to grasp the meaning of TV serials but not more complex ideas.	
Mode	rate impairment:	
-	Can understand only simple sentences.	
-	Can follow simple conversations when some points are repeated	
Severe	e impairment:	
-	Can understand only single words.	
-	Shows some understanding of slowly spoken simple sentences from context and gestures, although frequent repetition is needed.	
Gross	impairment:	
-	Unable to understand simple instructions or yes/no questions, even with gestures.	

7. Please select the most accurate description of capacity for **written expression**. Do **not** include impairment due to physical conditions.

Description	Select One
Normal or almost normal.	
<b>Mild Dysgraphia</b> : Unable to cope with more than short letters (about five lines) or postcards, which show both grammatical and spelling error.	
<b>Moderate Dysgraphia</b> : Unable to write more than short sentences, which include frequent spelling errors, e.g. has difficulty filling in bank forms.	
<b>Severe Dysgraphia</b> : Able to write only some recognisable words, e.g. items for a shopping list, or names of family.	
<b>Gross Agraphia</b> : No functional writing ability, although is able to copy or write much-practiced sequences, such as own name.	

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8. Please select the most accurate description of any difficulty with **expression by speech** because of alteration to **vocal intensity and quality**.

Description	Select One
Normal or almost normal.	
Minor: Sufficient intensity and quality for most needs of everyday speech.	
- Normal speech, but unable to shout, or permanently hoarse.	
- Needs to repeat self at times.	
- Unable to produce some phonetic units.	
Mild: Sufficient intensity and quality for many everyday needs.	
<ul> <li>Adequate with low background noise, but is heard with some difficulty in vehicles or public places.</li> </ul>	
- Many inaccuracies but easily understood by strangers.	
- Slow or discontinuous, conveying the distinct impression of difficulty.	
Moderate: Sufficient intensity and quality for some everyday needs.	
<ul> <li>Adequate under quiet conditions but is heard with great difficulty against any background noise, voice fades rapidly.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Understood by family and friend but it is difficult for strangers.</li> </ul>	
- Needs frequent repetition.	
- Speech is sustained for short periods only: fatigues rapidly.	
Severe: Sufficient intensity and quality for only a few everyday needs.	
- Reduced to a whisper at best, inaudible over the telephone.	
<ul> <li>Can produce only a few phonetic units approximating some words but these are not intelligible if the context is unknown.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Can produce only short phrases or single words, speech flow is not maintained or is too slow to be useful.</li> </ul>	
Gross impairment:	
- No speech production, but able to use non-verbal means of expression.	

9. Please select the most accurate description of any difficulty with **expression by speech** because of limitations in the **content of speech**.

Description	Select One
Normal or almost normal.	
Speech is sustained over a 10-minute period, but with difficulty that includes hesitation and word retrieval problems.	
Converses in simple sentences on familiar topics, word-finding problems are frequent and has difficulty explaining long or complex ideas.	
<b>Unable to initiate conversation</b> , but with considerable effort is able to respond in <b>short sentences</b> or phrases.	
Limited to single words or familiar social or stereotyped phrases requiring considerable listener interference.	

	most accurate descriptior e impact of other condition		's <b>neurological</b> con	ditions.
Description Description	e impact of other condition	)113.		Select On
Relatively stable con complications.	dition, any increase in mo	ortality is largely	y related to potenti	al
Progressively deterior multiple sclerosis, Alz	<b>orating</b> disorder associate cheimer's disease.	d with <b>reduced</b>	life expectancy, e.	g
Rapidly progressive of e.g. motor neurone d	disorder associated with <b>s</b> lisease.	significantly red	luced life expectan	cy,
None of the above.				
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