

Department of Veterans Affairs

§4.114

regain it despite appropriate therapy. "Baseline weight" means the average weight for the two-year-period preceding onset of the disease.

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§4.113 Coexisting abdominal conditions.

There are diseases of the digestive system, particularly within the abdomen, which, while differing in the site of pathology, produce a common disability picture characterized in the main by varying degrees of abdominal distress or pain, anemia and disturbances in nutrition. Consequently, certain coexisting diseases in this area, as indicated in the instruction under the title "Diseases of the Digestive System," do not lend themselves to distinct and separate disability evaluations without violating the fundamental principle relating to pyramiding as outlined in §4.14.

§4.114 Schedule of ratings—digestive system.

Ratings under diagnostic codes 7301 to 7329, inclusive, 7331, 7342, and 7345 to 7348 inclusive will not be combined with each other. A single evaluation will be assigned under the diagnostic code which reflects the predominant disability picture, with elevation to the next higher evaluation where the severity of the overall disability warrants such elevation.

	Rating
7200 Mouth, injuries of. Rate as for disfigurement and impairment of function of mastication.	
7201 Lips, injuries of. Rate as for disfigurement of face.	
7202 Tongue, loss of whole or part: With inability to communicate by speech .....	100
One-half or more .....	60
With marked speech impairment .....	30
7203 Esophagus, stricture of: Permitting passage of liquids only, with marked impairment of general health .....	80
Severe, permitting liquids only .....	50
Moderate .....	30
7204 Esophagus, spasm of (cardiospasm). If not amenable to dilation, rate as for the degree of obstruction (stricture).	
7205 Esophagus, diverticulum of, acquired. Rate as for obstruction (stricture).	
7301 Peritoneum, adhesions of:	

	Rating
Severe; definite partial obstruction shown by X-ray, with frequent and prolonged episodes of severe colic distension, nausea or vomiting, following severe peritonitis, ruptured appendix, perforated ulcer, or operation with drainage ....	50
Moderately severe; partial obstruction manifested by delayed motility of barium meal and less frequent and less prolonged episodes of pain .....	30
Moderate; pulling pain on attempting work or aggravated by movements of the body, or occasional episodes of colic pain, nausea, constipation (perhaps alternating with diarrhea) or abdominal distension .....	10
Mild .....	0
NOTE: Ratings for adhesions will be considered when there is history of operative or other traumatic or infectious (intraabdominal) process, and at least two of the following: disturbance of motility, actual partial obstruction, reflex disturbances, presence of pain.	
7304 Ulcer, gastric.	
7305 Ulcer, duodenal: Severe; pain only partially relieved by standard ulcer therapy, periodic vomiting, recurrent hematemesis or melena, with manifestations of anemia and weight loss productive of definite impairment of health .....	60
Moderately severe; less than severe but with impairment of health manifested by anemia and weight loss; or recurrent incapacitating episodes averaging 10 days or more in duration at least four or more times a year .....	40
Moderate; recurring episodes of severe symptoms two or three times a year averaging 10 days in duration; or with continuous moderate manifestations .....	20
Mild; with recurring symptoms once or twice yearly .....	10
7306 Ulcer, marginal (gastrojejunal): Pronounced; periodic or continuous pain unrelieved by standard ulcer therapy with periodic vomiting, recurring melena or hematemesis, and weight loss. Totally incapacitating .....	100
Severe; same as pronounced with less pronounced and less continuous symptoms with definite impairment of health .....	60
Moderately severe; intercurrent episodes of abdominal pain at least once a month partially or completely relieved by ulcer therapy, mild and transient episodes of vomiting or melena .....	40
Moderate; with episodes of recurring symptoms several times a year .....	20
Mild; with brief episodes of recurring symptoms once or twice yearly .....	10
7307 Gastritis, hypertrophic (identified by gastro-scope): Chronic; with severe hemorrhages, or large ulcerated or eroded areas .....	60
Chronic; with multiple small eroded or ulcerated areas, and symptoms .....	30
Chronic; with small nodular lesions, and symptoms .....	10
Gastritis, atrophic. A complication of a number of diseases, including pernicious anemia. Rate the underlying condition.	
7308 Postgastrectomy syndromes: Severe; associated with nausea, sweating, circulatory disturbance after meals, diarrhea, hypoglycemic symptoms, and weight loss with malnutrition and anemia .....	60