

HOSPITALIZATION:

A temporary 100 percent rating will be assigned when it is established that a service-connected disability has required hospitalization in a VA or approved hospital for a period in excess of 21 days or hospital observation at VA expense for a service-connected disability for a period in excess of 21 days. The 100 percent rating is to be effective from the first day of hospitalization continuing through the end of the month in which the hospitalization ends.

This temporary total rating may be extended for 30, 60 or 90 days following a regular discharge or release to non-bed care from the hospital, if the convalescence prevents employment after hospitalization. Extended periods of 30, 60 or 90 days beyond the initial three months may be made in exceptional cases. The provisions of the 100 percent rating for hospitalization for service-connected disability apply both to hospitalization in a VA hospital and to hospitalization in a private hospital when the private hospitalization has been authorized by the VA. A veteran entering the hospital for a service-connected condition might not be entitled to the 100 percent rating if a non-service-connected disability for which a veteran is treated during hospitalization causes the hospitalization to extend beyond 21 days. By the same token, a veteran may enter the hospital for treatment of a non-service-connected condition, and after entering the hospital, treatment or observation provided the service-connected condition requires a period in excess of 21 days.

CONVALESCENCE:

A temporary 100 percent rating will be assigned from the date of hospital admission when treatment for a service-connected disability involves major surgery without regard to length of hospitalization. This rating will be continued for 30, 60 or 90 days following discharge from the hospital. The temporary 100 percent rating can be further extended in multiples of 30 days for a total of 180 days should incapacity continue to preclude post-hospital employment. In exceptional cases, extended periods of one or more months up to six months, then totaling 12 months, may be granted. A temporary 100 percent rating can also be assigned in cases of therapeutic immobilization of one or more major joints or application of a body cast, whether accomplished on an inpatient or outpatient basis. A convalescent rating is also in order when

a discharged patient is confined to his or her house or must use a wheelchair or crutches (regular weight-bearing prohibited).

INDIVIDUAL UNEMPLOYABILITY:

Total disability ratings for compensation may be assigned, under certain criteria, when the disabled person is, in the judgment of the rating board, unable to secure or follow a substantially gainful occupation as a result of service-connected disabilities. The basic eligibility requirement for this benefit is that, in the case of only one service-connected condition, it must be rated 60 percent or more; in the case of two or more service-connected disabilities, there shall be at least one rated 40 percent or more and sufficient additional disability combining to 70 percent or more. The application form for this benefit is VA Form 21-8940.