

MEDICAL OPINION TEMPLATE

Nexus Letter Template

A nexus letter is a signed medical opinion from a qualified provider connecting a current diagnosis to military service (or to another service-connected condition). It is the single most important piece of evidence for a claim that is not already presumptive. The VA looks for one specific phrase: **“at least as likely as not.”** That language means a 50% or greater probability — the legal standard under 38 CFR. Give this page to your treating physician or a private provider who has reviewed your records.

How to use this template

1. Print it on your provider’s letterhead, or have them recreate it on theirs.
2. The provider fills every bracketed field and the opinion line in their own words.
3. It must be signed, dated, and include the provider’s credentials and license #.
4. Attach it to your claim as evidence — you file it yourself on VA.gov.

THE LETTER

Date: _____

Re: Medical Nexus Opinion for _____ (Veteran), DOB _____, VA File/SSN _____

To the Department of Veterans Affairs:

I am a _____ (specialty) licensed in the State of _____. I have been treating / have reviewed the records of the above-named veteran since _____. I am familiar with the veteran’s relevant medical history, including their service treatment records and current presentation.

It is my professional medical opinion that the veteran’s _____ (diagnosed condition):

“is at least as likely as not (50% probability or greater) caused by, or the result of, the veteran’s active military service — specifically _____ (in-service event, exposure, or service-connected condition).”

MEDICAL RATIONALE (the “why” — most important section):

Basis of opinion (records reviewed, examination findings, medical literature, and the mechanism connecting service to the condition): _____

Provider signature: _____

Printed name & credentials: _____ License #: _____

Language that works — and language that sinks a claim

USE: “at least as likely as not,” “more likely than not,” “due to,” “caused by,” “aggravated beyond its natural progression by.” These meet or exceed the VA’s evidentiary standard.

AVOID: “could be,” “might be,” “possibly related,” “cannot be ruled out.” Speculative language fails the standard and gives the rater a reason to deny. The opinion must state a probability of 50% or more.