

# Evidence appendix

FICTIONAL EXAMPLE. These invented records were processed through the Raven Nexus draft engine. No real veteran, clinician, or medical opinion is represented. Do not submit this example as evidence.

This is an unreviewed working draft, not medical evidence. The clinician must independently review the records and literature, reach their own conclusion, and author or adopt any final opinion.

## Records

R-A: Rating decision, dated 2016-03-22, page 1

Exact selected excerpt: "Service connection for PTSD is granted. No determination concerning sleep apnea is included in this fictional decision."

R-B: Baseline sleep study, dated 2018-09-05, page 2

Exact selected excerpt: "Assessment: obstructive sleep apnea. The untreated diagnostic study reports an apnea-hypopnea index of 16 events per hour. Prescribed positive airway pressure is discussed at follow-up."

R-C: Equipment follow-up, dated 2020-01-27, page 3

Exact selected excerpt: "The patient reports tolerating the prescribed mask and feeling rested after use. The note contains no repeat untreated sleep study and does not quantify the underlying condition's progression."

R-D: Later sleep consultation, dated 2024-02-20, page 4

Exact selected excerpt: "The patient reports removing the mask during awakenings associated with nightmares. Daytime fatigue is reported. Weight gain and a different work schedule are also documented. The clinician requests assessment of equipment use and sleep history without attributing worsening to PTSD."

## Separately attributed history

Veteran-selected primary condition: PTSD. Service-connected status is not verified by this selection.

Veteran-reported symptoms: Fatigue and difficulty keeping the mask on during disrupted sleep.

Veteran-reported contrary or complicating facts: The later observations are not a comparable untreated diagnostic study. Equipment use, weight, and work schedule changed.

## Research analysis and source context

No primary-source literature qualified for this exact connection question. No broader substitute is included.

## Board passages used in the examiner-response section

No Board passages are included.

**Provider guidance (descriptive, not medical reasoning)**

No exact Board comparison is available for the selected connection question. A causation cohort is not substituted for aggravation. The clinician must independently confirm that the medical question is within their scope and practice.