

Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP) Frequently Asked Questions

Some Veterans' advocates have questions about VA's Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP). Here are some frequently asked questions with responses by the Department of Veterans Affairs' [Veterans Benefits Administration](#).

QUESTION: What are the advantages of RAMP?

RESPONSE: RAMP offers several advantages over the current appeals system. These include:

- [Early participation](#) in the new, more efficient review process
- [Faster decisions](#) and early resolution of disagreements
- [Choice](#) in which review option is right for the Veteran
- The [same potential effective date](#) for the Veteran's benefits regardless of the chosen review option
- A new requirement that any [favorable finding](#) cannot be changed absent clear and convincing evidence

QUESTION: Will RAMP be faster than the current appeal process?

RESPONSE: As of April 30, 2018, Veterans who opted in to RAMP are receiving a decision in less than 60 days. While RAMP is new, VA anticipates RAMP processing times will continue to be [significantly faster](#) than current appeal processing times. VA's goal is to process reviews under RAMP in an average of 125 days. Currently, Veterans are waiting an average of three years for a resolution of their appeals. For current appeals that are decided by the Board, on average, Veterans are waiting an average of seven years from filing of their Notice of Disagreement (NOD) until the Board issues a decision.

QUESTION: Who is eligible for RAMP?

RESPONSE: Appellants who have a disability compensation appeal pending in one of the following appeal stages at the time of election are eligible for RAMP:

- Notice of Disagreement (NOD)
- Form 9
- Certified to Board (not docketed)
- Remand

Compensation appeals docketed at the Board are excluded and will remain pending in the current appeals process. If a Veteran elects to participate in RAMP, VA [will process all eligible appeals](#) under the selected review lane. Initially, RAMP was offered to Veterans who have been waiting the longest in each of the above appeal stages for a resolution of their appeal. Now, any Veteran with an eligible disability compensation appeal can opt in to RAMP.

THERE IS NO WRONG CHOICE

The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 is designed to provide Veterans greater choice and early resolution of their disagreements with VA's benefit decisions. VA has initiated RAMP in an effort to provide Veterans with the benefits of the new law's streamlined process prior to its full implementation in February 2019.

Veterans will receive a faster decision in RAMP than they would in the current process, while protecting the effective date for their benefits.

If still dissatisfied with the outcome of the RAMP decision, the Veteran will have up to a full year to select another review option, to include appealing to the Board, while protecting the effective date for benefits.