

PVA MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION

To be eligible for membership the veteran must have a clinically-diagnosed impairment of the spinal cord with accompanying residuals.

The listing which follows is illustrative of injury and diseases of the spinal cord and cauda equina (compression of nerves in the lumbar spine and a narrowing of the spinal canal) but is not all inclusive. In the event an individual applies for membership with a diagnosis, not specifically included in the list, the question should be referred to the PVA Executive Director for appropriate consideration and decision.

ORGANIC SPINAL CORD AND CAUDA EQUINA LESIONS THROUGH:

- 1. INJURY - TRAUMA** to the spinal cord with neurological deficits (loss of motor/sensory function in extremities and/or bowel/bladder dysfunction). Paralysis due to Traumatic Brain injury (TBI) without spinal cord involvement is not a qualifying condition for membership.
- 2. DISEASES - DYSFUNCTIONS** with pathology that affect the spinal cord and produce neurological deficits (loss of motor and sensory function in extremities and/or bowel/bladder dysfunction). Examples include but are not limited to:

Viral infections, inflammations, degenerative conditions, tumors, cysts, congenital and constrictive conditions that affect the spinal cord

(NOTE: Does not include conditions that only affect the brain or are diagnosed but cause no neurological motor/sensory loss in the extremities or bowel/bladder function).

A VETERAN WITH PATHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS RELATED TO THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM BUT DO NOT SPECIFICALLY INVOLVE THE SPINAL CORD OR CAUDA EQUINA IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP

Examples include but are not limited to:

Cerebrovascular Accident (stroke), osteoarthritis, toxic or peripheral neuropathy, amputations, and organic/traumatic brain injury.