

RECOMMENDATION NO. 8

The Commission recommends that a study be made of the appropriate presumptive periods for service connection for all chronic diseases.

Background to Recommendation:

In addition to compensating war service veterans for disabling conditions actually shown to have been incurred during service, the law specifies certain chronic diseases which are presumed to have begun during service if they become manifest to a compensable degree within the time limitations stated after discharge. Generally, the period is one year. Exceptions are made for tuberculosis and Hansen's disease, which have a three-year presumptive period, and for multiple sclerosis, which has a seven-year presumptive period.

The Commission has had many representations asking for extension of presumptive periods for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, progressive muscular atrophy, and chronic psychosis. It therefore requests that a study be made of the appropriate presumptive periods for service connection for all chronic diseases in the light of current medical knowledge.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 9

The Commission recommends that the date of admission to a private hospital be made the date of claim for increased compensation during a period of hospitalization, provided the VA is notified within 90 days of discharge.

Background to Recommendation:

Under the present law, when a veteran is admitted to a Veterans Administration hospital for a service-connected disability, he is entitled to an increased amount of compensation during the period of hospitalization. The date of admission counts as the date of claim. If a veteran is admitted to a private hospital for the same service-connected disability, he can only receive the increase from the date he notifies the Veterans Administration he is in the hospital. The Commission recommends that the increased payment