

Impairment of Auditory Acuity

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§ 4.85 Evaluation of hearing impairment.

(a) An examination for hearing impairment for VA purposes must be conducted by a state-licensed audiologist and must include a controlled speech discrimination test (Maryland CNC) and a puretone audiometry test. Examinations will be conducted without the use of hearing aids.

(b) Table VI, “Numeric Designation of Hearing Impairment Based on Puretone Threshold Average and Speech Discrimination,” is used to determine a Roman numeral designation (I through XI) for hearing impairment based on a combination of the percent of speech discrimination (horizontal rows) and the puretone threshold average (vertical columns). The Roman numeral designation is located at the point where the percentage of speech discrimination and puretone threshold average intersect.

(c) Table VIa, “Numeric Designation of Hearing Impairment Based Only on Puretone Threshold Average,” is used to determine a Roman numeral designation (I through XI) for hearing impairment based only on the puretone threshold average. Table VIa will be used when the examiner certifies that use of the speech discrimination test is not appropriate because of language difficulties, inconsistent speech discrimination scores, etc., or when indicated under the provisions of §4.86.

(d). This average is used in all cases (including those in §4.86) to determine the Roman numeral designation for hearing impairment from Table VI or VIa.

(e) Table VII, “Percentage Evaluations for Hearing Impairment,” is used to determine the percentage evaluation by combining the Roman numeral designations for hearing impairment of each ear. The horizontal rows represent the ear having the better hearing and the vertical columns the ear having the poorer hearing. The percentage evaluation is located at the point where the row and column intersect.

(f) If impaired hearing is service-connected in only one ear, in order to determine the percentage evaluation from Table VII, the non-service-connected ear will be assigned a Roman Numeral designation for hearing impairment of I, subject to the provisions of §3.383 of this chapter.

(g) When evaluating any claim for impaired hearing, refer to §3.350 of this chapter to determine whether the veteran may be entitled to special monthly compensation due either to deafness, or to deafness in combination with other specified disabilities.

(h) Numeric tables VI, VIA*, and VII.

[52 FR 44119, Nov. 18, 1987, as amended at 64 FR 25206, May 11, 1999]

TABLE VI

**NUMERIC DESIGNATION OF HEARING IMPAIRMENT BASED ON
PURETONE THRESHOLD AVERAGE AND SPEECH DISCRIMINATION**

% of discrimination	Puretone Threshold Average								
	0-41	42-49	50-57	58-65	66-73	74-81	82-89	90-97	98+
92-100	I	I	I	II	II	II	III	III	IV
84-90	II	II	II	III	III	III	IV	IV	IV
76-82	III	III	IV	IV	IV	V	V	V	V
68-74	IV	IV	V	V	VI	VI	VII	VII	VII
60-66	V	V	VI	VI	VII	VII	VIII	VIII	VIII
52-58	VI	VI	VII	VII	VIII	VIII	VIII	VIII	IX
44-50	VII	VII	VIII	VIII	VIII	IX	IX	IX	X
36-42	VIII	VIII	VIII	IX	IX	IX	X	X	X
0-34	IX	X	XI	XI	XI	XI	XI	XI	XI

TABLE VIA*

**NUMERIC DESIGNATION OF HEARING IMPAIRMENT BASED ONLY
ON PURETONE THRESHOLD AVERAGE**

Puretone Threshold Average

	0-41	42-48	49-55	56-62	63-69	70-76	77-83	84-90	91-97	98-104	105+
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI

TABLE VII
PERCENTAGE EVALUATION FOR HEARING IMPAIRMENT
(DIAGNOSTIC CODE 6100)

Poorer Ear											
XI	100*										
X	90	80									
IX	80	70	60								
VIII	70	60	50	50							
VII	60	60	50	40	40						
VI	50	50	40	40	30	30					
V	40	40	40	30	30	20	20				
IV	30	30	30	20	20	20	10	10			
III	20	20	20	20	20	10	10	10	0		
II	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	
I	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	XI	X	IX	VIII	VII	VI	V	IV	III	II	I

*Review for entitlement to special monthly compensation under §3.350 of this chapter.

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