

File Number: [REDACTED]  
 CROOKS, TERRINE K

**Your payment will be directed to the financial institution and account number that you specified. To confirm when your payment was deposited, please contact your financial institution.**

*If this account is no longer open,  
 please notify us immediately.*

**What We Decided**

We made the following decision(s) regarding your claimed issue(s):

Issue/Contention	Percent (%) Assigned	Effective Date
total abdominal hysterectomy with history of menorrhagia, uterine fibroids, and endometriosis	30%	May 22, 2014
<b>Explanation</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have assigned a 30 percent evaluation for your total abdominal hysterectomy with history of menorrhagia, uterine fibroids, and endometriosis based on: • Minimum evaluation following removal of the uterus .</li> <li>• A higher evaluation of 50 percent is not warranted for removal of uterus and both ovaries unless the evidence shows: • Complete removal of the uterus and both ovaries.</li> <li>• A higher evaluation of 50 percent is not warranted for prolapse of uterus unless the evidence shows: • Complete prolapse, through introitus; or, • Complete prolapse, through vagina.</li> <li>• A higher evaluation of 100 percent is not warranted for removal of uterus unless the evidence shows: • Rate Temporary Evaluation for Three Months for removal of uterus.</li> <li>• Service connection for total abdominal hysterectomy with history of menorrhagia, uterine fibroids, and endometriosis has been established as directly related to military service. Benefits for this condition had previously been denied as the evidence available at that time did not show your condition was incurred during or was otherwise caused by your military service. You have submitted new and material evidence to reopen this claim. While not specifically diagnosed during active military service, we have received objective medical evidence from Dr. [REDACTED] linking your condition to symptoms treated while on active duty as well as probable exposure to toxic chemicals. Dr. [REDACTED] provided that after reviewing your service medical records and substantiating documents regarding toxic chemicals used at George Air Force Base, it was his opinion that your condition was at least as likely as not caused by your military service. Your service records confirm your service at George Air Force Base during your period of active military service. There is no objective medical evidence showing that your condition was not caused by your military service. An evaluation of 30 percent is assigned from May 22, 2014, the date you initiated your reopened claim for compensation benefits.</li> </ul>		

File Number: [REDACTED]  
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Issue/Contention	Percent (%) Assigned	Effective Date
bilateral mastectomy, residual of breast cancer	50%	May 22, 2014
<b>Explanation</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have assigned a 50 percent evaluation for your bilateral mastectomy, residual of breast cancer based on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following simple mastectomy of both breasts .</li> <li>• A higher evaluation of 60 percent is not warranted for surgery of breast unless the evidence shows:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following modified radical mastectomy of both breasts.</li> <li>• A higher evaluation of 80 percent is not warranted for surgery of breast unless the evidence shows:                       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entire removal of both breasts, underlying pectoral muscles and regional lymph nodes up to the coracoclavicular ligament.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Service connection for bilateral mastectomy, residual of breast cancer has been established as directly related to military service. While not specifically diagnosed during active military service, we have received objective medical evidence from Dr. [REDACTED] linking your condition to symptoms treated while on active duty as well as probable exposure to toxic chemicals. Dr. [REDACTED] provided that after reviewing your service medical records and substantiating documents regarding toxic chemicals used at George Air Force Base, it was his opinion that your condition was at least as likely as not caused by your military service. Your service records confirm your service at George Air Force Base during your period of active military service. There is no objective medical evidence showing that your condition was not caused by your military service. An evaluation of 50 percent is assigned from May 22, 2014, the date you initiated your electronic application for compensation benefits.</li> </ul> </li></ul>		

Issue/Contention	Percent (%) Assigned	Effective Date
post-operative breast scarring	0%	May 22, 2014
<b>Explanation</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service connection for post-operative breast scarring has been established as related to the service-connected disability of bilateral mastectomy, residual of breast cancer.</li> <li>• We have assigned a noncompensable evaluation for your post-operative breast scarring based on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or more scars with no compensable characteristics</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Note: In every instance where the schedule does not provide a zero percent evaluation for a diagnostic code, a zero percent evaluation shall be assigned when the requirements for a compensable evaluation are not met. {38 CFR §4.31}</li> <li>• An additional, separate compensable evaluation under Diagnostic Code 7804 is not warranted unless there is at least one scar that is painful or unstable.</li> <li>• This is the highest schedular evaluation allowed under the law for scars, general.</li> <li>• A noncompensable evaluation is assigned from May 22, 2014, the date you initiated your electronic application for service connection of breast cancer.</li> </ul>		