

# Chapter 15

## Intermittent Impairment

### INTRODUCTION

Intermittent disorders are conditions:

- ◆ that remain at a low level of impairment between discrete episodes of increased impairment;  
or
- ◆ where there is one basic type of impairment on which is superimposed episodes of significantly greater impairment of another type.

A sufferer from epilepsy who remains well between “fits” exemplifies the first type of intermittent disorder. A sufferer from *Menière’s disease* whose condition is characterised by deafness and occasional episodes of vertigo exemplifies the second type of intermittent disorder. The deafness may be regarded as the basic type of impairment and the episodes of vertigo may be regarded as the superimposed intermittent impairment. *Both elements of the condition are to be assessed.*

In this chapter, “attacks” refers to the episode of increased or superimposed impairment. Attacks are to be categorised by reference to their severity, duration and frequency:

- ◆ “severity of an attack” refers to the degree to which self-care and normal everyday activities are disrupted by the attack;
- ◆ “duration of an attack” refers to the average length of time for which an attack lasts, that is, seconds, minutes, hours or days; and
- ◆ “frequency of an attack” refers to the number of affected days in a year.

Intermittent disorders are also disorders that affect one or more body systems. For example, asthma is both an intermittent condition and a cardio-respiratory condition. Hence, potentially, any intermittent disorder can be assessed by either of two methods:

- ◆ by applying the system-specific tables contained in Chapters 1 to 12. Several of those tables should be used if the intermittent disorder causes multiple losses of function; or
- ◆ by applying this chapter.

In practice, except where the intermittent nature of the condition clearly overwhelms its system specific effects or vice versa, both methods are to be applied for rating the intermittent condition and the higher of those two ratings taken as the final rating for the intermittent condition.

## Calculation of the impairment rating for an accepted intermittent condition

Follow the steps below to calculate the impairment rating due to an accepted intermittent condition:

<b>STEP 1</b>	Establish which body systems are affected by the intermittent condition.	Page 211
<b>STEP 2</b>	Determine the functional impairment ratings for the intermittent condition.	Page 211
<b>STEP 3</b>	Determine the total combined impairment rating for the various body system impairments attributable to the intermittent condition.	Page 211
<b>STEP 4</b>	Determine whether the attacks are of one or more significant types and group them accordingly.	Page 211
<b>STEP 5</b>	Determine the rating for intermittent attack severity.	Page 212
<b>STEP 6</b>	Determine the rating for the intermittent attack duration.	Page 213
<b>STEP 7</b>	Determine the intermittent grading code for the intermittent attack.	Page 213
<b>STEP 8</b>	Determine the impairment rating for the intermittent attack by reference to the number of affected days per year.	Page 214
<b>STEP 9</b>	Compare the impairment ratings obtained in Step 3 and Step 8. Take the higher rating.	Page 214
<b>STEP 10</b>	Determine the rating for the impairment resulting from the avoidance or preclusion of otherwise normal activities between attacks.	Page 215

**Step 1: Establish which body systems the intermittent condition affects.**

Before an intermittent condition is assessed, information regarding the extent of the condition must be available. From that information, the affected body systems are to be established and the applicable chapters of this *Guide* applied.

**Step 2: Determine the functional impairment ratings attributable to the intermittent condition for each affected body system.**

Use the relevant chapters and determine the appropriate rating.

Chapter 19 (Partially Contributing Impairment) or Chapter 20 (Apportionment) may also have to be applied to allow for the effect of other accepted conditions or non-accepted conditions respectively.

**Step 3: Determine the total combined impairment rating for the various body system impairments attributable to the intermittent condition.**

Combine the attributable impairment ratings obtained in Step 2 by applying Table 18.1 (Combined Values Chart) in Chapter 18.

The combined value so obtained is for use only in Step 9.

**Step 4: Determine whether the attacks are of one or more significant types and group them accordingly.**

If attacks vary in severity, duration or frequency, an average for each parameter is to be established except when the attacks fall naturally and very clearly into groups. In such cases separate the attacks into one or other of these groups. Determine the average severity, duration and frequency of the attacks in each group.

Perform the following four steps separately for each identified group of attacks.

**Step 5: Determine the rating level for intermittent attack severity using Table 15.1.**

**SCALE  
15.1**



**INTERMITTENT ATTACK SEVERITY**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
0	Minor symptoms that are easily tolerated.
I	Mild to moderate symptoms that are irritating or unpleasant but that rarely prevent completion of any activity. Symptoms may cause loss of efficiency in some activities.
II	More severe symptoms, that are distressing, but prevent few everyday activities. Loss of efficiency is discernible elsewhere. Self-care is unaffected and independence is retained.
III	Loss of efficiency is discernible in many everyday activities. Some elements of self-care are restricted but, in most respects, independence is retained. Bed-rest is often necessary during an attack.
IV	Major restrictions in many everyday activities. Capacity for self-care is increasingly restricted, leading to partial dependence on others.
V	Most everyday activities are prevented. Dependent on others for many kinds of self-care. Able to be maintained at home only with considerable difficulty, or hospital admission is required.
VI	Total incapacity. Unconscious or delirious. Self-care is impossible.

**No age adjustment permitted for this table**

Ratings are based on the activities that the veteran is physically unable to perform. For conditions in which it is common practice to lie down during attacks, it may be inappropriate to rate at level III if symptoms are mild and cause little restriction to activity.

Attacks of some intermittent conditions necessitate hospital admission. Hospital admissions commonly, but not invariably, call for level V or VI rating. It is important to rate self-care capacity. To be rated at Level V severity, a condition must render the veteran incapable of caring for himself or herself.

Hospital admission for surgery is not to be used as a basis for ratings from Table 15.1.

**Step 6: Determine the rating for duration of the intermittent attacks using Table 15.2.**

Attacks that last for more than 24 hours are to be classified as prolonged for the purposes of Table 15.2. Because they affect the veteran for more than one day per attack, the number of affected days per year will be greater than the number of attacks.

**SCALE 15.2**



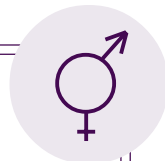
**INTERMITTENT ATTACK DURATION**

Description	Duration
Transient	Lasting up to and including five minutes.
Short	Lasting up to and including 30 minutes.
Medium	Lasting from 30 minutes to four hours.
Prolonged	Lasting more than four hours.

No age adjustment permitted for this table

**Step 7: Determine the intermittent grading code for the intermittent attack using Table 15.3.**

**SCALE 15.3**



**INTERMITTENT GRADING CODE**

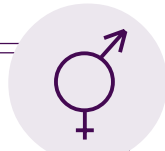
Description	Severity Level						
	0	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Transient	A	A	A	B	C	C	F
Short	A	A	C	C	D	E	H
Medium	A	B	C	D	E	H	I
Prolonged	A	C	D	F	G	I	J

No age adjustment permitted for this table

**Step 8: Determine the impairment rating for the intermittent attack by reference to the number of affected days per year and by using Table 15.4.**

Using the intermittent grading code determined in Step 7, determine the impairment rating appropriate to the intermittent grading code and frequency by applying Table 15.4.

**Functional Loss  
Table 15.4**



**INTERMITTENT IMPAIRMENT**

Intermittent Grading Code	Frequency (affected days/year)						
	2+	5+	10+	20+	40+	70+	100+
A	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
B	—	—	—	—	2	5	5
C	—	—	—	2	5	10	10
D	—	—	2	5	10	15	20
E	—	—	2	5	10	20	30
F	—	2	5	5	10	20	30
G	—	2	5	10	20	25	30
H	—	2	5	10	30	40	50
I	2	5	10	30	50	60	70
J	5	10	20	40	70	80	90

**No age adjustment permitted for this table**

If the attacks were separated into groups in Step 4, a separate rating is to be obtained for each group of attacks.

Those ratings are not to be combined at this stage but are to be included in the final combining of all ratings.

**Step 9: Compare the impairment ratings obtained in Step 3 and Step 8. Take the higher rating.**

If the attacks were separated into groups in Step 4, the ratings for the various groups of attacks are to be combined by applying Chapter 18 (Combined Values Chart) before being compared with the rating obtained in Step 3. The combined rating determined under Chapter 18 is to be used only for the purpose of this comparison.

If the combined rating determined under Chapter 18 is higher than the rating obtained in Step 3, then each of the separate ratings for the various groups of attacks is to be included in the final combining of all ratings.

**Step 10: Determine the rating for the impairment resulting from the avoidance and preclusion of otherwise normal activities between attacks by using Table 15.5.**

Precluded activities refer to ordinary activities. Ratings are to be given on the basis of having to avoid, or of being precluded from undertaking, activities that are common for the veteran's age group. Ratings are not to be given on the basis of having to avoid only relatively hazardous activities such as rock-climbing or acrobatics.

Table 15.5 is to be applied only if at least one attack of the condition of severity II or greater has occurred within the last 2 years.

**Functional Loss  
Table 15.5**



**INTERMITTENT IMPAIRMENT:  
PRECLUDED AND AVOIDED ACTIVITIES**

<b>Impairment Ratings</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
NIL	Not prevented by fear of an attack from any significant activities. Can lead a normal life between attacks without the need to take long term medication.
TWO	Must avoid relatively few activities for fear of precipitating an attack. or Can lead a fairly normal life between attacks but must take long term medication.
FIVE	Must avoid some activities such as driving a car, using machinery, using public transport, swimming, travelling, being alone except for short periods of time lest an attack occur.
TEN	Must avoid a wide range of activities such as driving a car, using machinery, using public transport, swimming, travelling, being alone except for short periods of time lest an attack occur with possible severe consequences.

*Only one rating may be had from this table for any given condition. Intermittent conditions may attract a rating from Table 15.5 as well as a rating or ratings from either Table 15.4 or the system specific tables.*

**No age adjustment  
permitted for  
this table**

The rating obtained in Step 10 is not to be compared with the rating obtained in Step 9, nor are ratings to be combined at this stage. Irrespective of the outcome of Step 9 the rating obtained from Table 15.5 is to be included in the final combining of all ratings.

### **Intermittent Impairment Worksheets**

A set of Intermittent Impairment Worksheets (pages 217 to 218) is designed to facilitate the calculation of intermittent impairment rating.

Intermittent Impairment Worksheet (1) is to be used in those cases where all the attacks are grouped into a single type of attack.

Intermittent Impairment Worksheet (2) is to be used in those cases where the attacks are grouped into two or three types.

No worksheet is provided for those cases where more than three types of attacks are involved.



## Intermittent Impairment Worksheet (1)

File No:

Veteran's given names:

Veteran's surname:

Condition for assessment:

**All the attacks can be grouped into a single type of attack.**

Severity of attacks:

Comments (Selection from Table 15.1)

Severity:

Duration of attack:

Comments (Selection from Table 15.2)

Duration:

**The intermittent grading code is found from Table 15.3:**

Intermittent grading code:

**Frequency of attacks:**

Frequency: (in number of affected days per year)

**The impairment rating is found from Table 15.4:**

Impairment rating based on attacks:

= A

*If the impairment rating based on attacks (A) is greater than the rating for the intermittent condition based on the system-specific chapters of GARP, then the impairment rating A is to be included in the final combining of all ratings.*

Avoided and precluded activities:

Comments (Selection from Table 15.5)

Impairment rating for avoided and precluded activities:

= B

*Rating B is to be included in the final combining of all ratings.*

Signature	Name (please print)	Date ...../...../.....
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## Intermittent Impairment Worksheet (2)

File No:

Veteran's given names:

Veteran's surname:

Condition for assessment:

Number of different types of attack:

Type 1

Type 2

Type 3

Severity:




Duration:




Intermittent grading code:




Frequency:  
(in number of affected days per year)




Impairment rating:  
(based on attacks)




*If the combined value of the impairment ratings based on attacks is greater than the rating for the Intermittent condition based on the system-specific chapters of GARP, then the impairment ratings based on attacks are to be included in the final combining of all ratings.*

Avoided and precluded activities:

Comments (Selection from Table 15.5)

Impairment rating for avoided and precluded activities:

= B

*The rating (B) for avoided and precluded activities is to be included in the final combining of all ratings.*

Signature	Name (please print)	Date ...../...../.....
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