



DR RENEE ROBARTS

— VETERAN CONSULTANCY —

Patient Information Sheet

Why am I having this assessment?

After submitting a claim to DVA, part of the process for DVA to determine the claim involves issuing various medical reports to be completed by a doctor. These reports typically request information such as confirming a diagnosis; establishing a connection between the injuries and your military service; and, assessing the extent of impairment your injury has on your daily life.

What should I expect for my appointment?

Some veterans experience a mix of emotions, including anxiety and stress, leading up to their appointments. This is completely understandable, given the significance of these assessments, which can affect ongoing medical care and lead to financial compensation.

Dr. Robarts wants to assure you that her role is simply to ask questions about your injuries and compile a report for DVA. She operates as an objective, independent physician who is dedicated to documenting your injuries exactly as you describe them and records the facts of her objective examination.

Our goal is to ease any feelings of trepidation you may have about the appointment. Please rest assured that Dr. Robarts and her team are here to support you every step of the way.

Permanent Impairment Assessments:

These assessments pertain to what treatments you have had for your injuries; if your injuries are permanent; and, how much your injuries affect your everyday life. DVA also would like the doctor to report on what other injuries are contributing to your loss of function. These may be new diagnoses she makes or non-accepted diagnoses.

If your assessment is for a mental health condition, Dr Robarts will need to ask questions about how your symptoms affect you. This can be an upsetting and overwhelming experience. Depending on the severity of your condition, Dr Robarts recommends planning on taking some time after the appointment to come down from the emotionally-taxing experience.

Depending on the injury being assessed, there may be a requirement for a basic physical examination, such as range-of-motion test, or basic functional movements. We will advise you what to wear based on the conditions in your assessment.

Some assessments under the DRCA legislation request an observation of the veteran walking a short distance and using stairs and slopes (only if you are able), or functional tests of your arms. We will let you know if this is in your assessment.



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Initial Liability Assessments:

If your assessment is for DVA to assess your claim (called Initial Liability Assessments, or Diagnostic Assessments), Dr Robarts needs to prove to DVA that you have the injury being claimed for. This can be done by way of imaging reports (such as MRI's or X-rays), specialist letters, or extracts from your military medical documents. (Extracts from your med docs are helpful, but not imperative if you can't access them). If you haven't had scans on the injuries being assessed, Dr Robarts can organise this for you.

Telehealth Video Appointments:

If your appointment is a telehealth video appointment, we request that you take the call in a well-lit, private room, be sitting on a backed chair, and be able to manoeuvre the camera to demonstrate basic functional movements.

Some assessments will require a couch or a bed in the room so she can observe various movements lying down (or be able to lay on the floor with the camera). We will let you know if this is required.

If you are unfamiliar or haven't done a video call before, we are happy to set up a test call prior to the appointment to make sure everything is working properly. Dr Robarts will not be able to conduct the appointment without working audio and video.

Can I have someone in the appointment with me?

As this is a medico-legal assessment, only the veteran can be in the appointment. Dr Robarts can exempt this under exceptional circumstances, please discuss with us if need be.

Can I obtain a copy of the report?

Dr Robarts consents to the release of the reports to the veterans; however, her policy is to request them through your DVA delegate.

After your report is finalised and sent back to DVA, Dr Robarts will not discuss her decisions and objective findings with veterans. These are medico-legal reports which are written at the time of examination and cannot be changed. Please discuss further queries with DVA.