



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Veterans Benefits Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20420

October 6, 2017

Shaun Brown

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am responding to your recent inquiry to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs regarding Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) as a result of military jet air gun injections.

As noted in your inquiry, despite the lack of any scientific evidence to document transmission of HCV with air gun injectors, VA acknowledges this as a possible risk factor for developing HCV. As such, a medical report linking HCV to air gun injectors must include a full discussion of all potential modes of transmission for an individual Veteran and a rationale as to why the examiner believes the air gun injector was the source of the Veteran's hepatitis infection. VA examiners review all evidence of record to include medical evidence and lay statements to provide an opinion regarding a nexus between the disability and an event, injury or disease incurred during active duty service.

Rating decisions which determine service connection are then made by weighing all evidence of record based on the Veteran's specific circumstances. Since each decision is made on a case-by-case basis, there are differences in outcomes in decisions made by the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA). Decisions made by BVA are final and binding on the Veterans Benefits Administration.

I hope this information is helpful and will assist you with understanding the process by which VA determines service connection for HCV.

Sincerely,

*Gaurine J. Carson*  
for Acting Deputy Director  
Beth Murphy  
Director  
Compensation Service