



## Flatfoot: VA Disability Rating Explained

The VA rates flatfoot under Diagnostic Code 5276, which falls under 38 CFR § 4.71a. The rating depends on the severity of the condition and its impact on functional limitations. Here's an overview of the rating criteria for flatfoot:

### Diagnostic Code 5276: Flatfoot (Pes Planus)

- **10% Mild:** Symptoms only on prolonged standing or walking, or; bilateral pronation with outward deviation of great toe (hallux valgus), or; if unilateral, severe.
- **30% Moderate:** Marked pronation, extreme tenderness of the plantar surfaces of the feet, marked inward displacement and severe spasm of the tendo Achilles on manipulation, pain on manipulation of the head of the talus, or; marked outward displacement of the great toe (hallux valgus), or; marked symptoms in one foot.
- **50% Severe:** Symptoms severe; weight-bearing line over or medial to great toe, extreme tenderness of the plantar surfaces, marked inward displacement and severe spasm of the tendo Achilles on manipulation, marked outward displacement of the great toe (hallux valgus), or; symptoms in one foot equally severe as bilateral involvement.



## **Flatfoot: VA Disability Rating Explained**

### **Rating Criteria Explanation:**

- **Mild (10%):** This rating is assigned when the flatfoot condition causes symptoms only after prolonged standing or walking. It may also be assigned if there is bilateral pronation with outward deviation of the big toe (hallux valgus), or if the condition is unilateral but severe.
- **Moderate (30%):** If the condition is marked by pronounced inward displacement of the foot arch, extreme tenderness of the plantar surfaces of the feet, marked spasm of the Achilles tendon upon manipulation, or severe symptoms in one foot, a 30% rating may be warranted.
- **Severe (50%):** This rating is given for severe symptoms such as significant weight-bearing line deviation, extreme tenderness of the plantar surfaces, marked spasm of the Achilles tendon upon manipulation, marked outward deviation of the big toe (hallux valgus), or if the symptoms in one foot are equally severe as bilateral involvement.

### **Additional Considerations:**

- **Functional Impact:** The VA considers how flatfoot affects daily activities, mobility, and occupational functioning.
- **Pain and Discomfort:** The severity of pain, tenderness, and discomfort associated with flatfoot can impact the rating.
- **Treatment:** The VA may consider the effectiveness of treatments such as orthotics, shoe inserts, or surgery in managing flatfoot symptoms.



## **Flatfoot: VA Disability Rating Explained**

**Evidence Required: To support a claim for flatfoot, veterans typically need:**

- **Medical Records:** Documentation of diagnosis, symptoms, and treatment history from healthcare providers.
- **Physical Examination Findings:** Detailed examination findings related to tenderness, range of motion, and deformities of the foot.
- **Imaging Studies:** X-rays or other imaging studies showing the structural abnormalities or deformities of the foot.
- **Functional Limitations:** Statements from healthcare providers or personal statements describing how flatfoot affects daily activities, mobility, and work. By providing comprehensive medical evidence and documentation of the functional impact of flatfoot, veterans can ensure their condition is accurately rated according to VA criteria.