



# Determining a Nexus

## Reasoning

- Must weigh the probative evidence
  - Medical facts in the case for and against a nexus
  - Support in the medical literature or other references for and against a nexus
  - Thought process is important
    - Why you put more weight on some evidence than another
    - If you disagree with a previously rendered opinion explain why



# The Medical Opinion

- **Conclusion:**
  - It is more than likely that the claimed condition was caused by the stated event/ exposure/ stressor while on active duty
  - It is at least as likely as not (equipoise) that the claimed condition was caused by the stated event/ exposure/ stressor while on active duty
  - It is unlikely that the claimed condition was caused by the stated event/ exposure/ stressor while on active duty.
- Do not have to state what you believe caused the claimed condition
- “Cannot opine without resorting to speculation”



## **Process for Providing Medical Opinions for Camp Lejeune Claims**

- All claims related to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune are managed through the Louisville regional Office:
- After claims development by VARO, a medical opinion, if needed will be routed through one of two mechanisms:
  - Routine requests:
  - Advisory Opinion requests: