Nexus Statement Information

Nexus means link.  So, what we need is for your doctor to state in writing (a short letter to the VA on his letterhead is fine) in which he/she explains the lung disease the patient has and the potential risk factors for it and that asbestos happens to be one of them.  What the patient needs to know is that the doctor needs to conclude their letter about the link between the diagnosis and asbestos with a statement that the lung disease is “at least as likely as not to have been caused by asbestos”.  This means a 50% chance it's from asbestos, or put differently, that asbestos was at least a 50% contributing factor in his patient developing that type of lung disease,  so the doctor doesn’t have to be sure it's from asbestos.

 **How do I give an opinion for nexus (relationship to a military incident) letter?**

When asked to give an opinion as to whether a condition is related to a specific incident or event during military service, the opinion should be expressed as follows:

**1. “is due to”** (100% sure)

**2. “more likely than not”** (greater than 50%)

**3. “at least as likely as not”** (equal to or greater than 50%)

**4. “not at least as likely as not”** (less than 50%)

**5. “is not due to”** (0%)

And here is an example that was written for a veteran with lung cancer for his VA claim:

September 12, 2014

To Whom it May Concern;

RE: [Redacted]                                             DOB: 01/01/1950

Mr. [Redacted] is under my care for pulmonary fibrosis. He is undergoing supplemental oxygen and respiratory therapy. Etiologies of this type of lung disease include exposure toxins and pollutants including asbestos, silica dust, hard metal dusts, coal dust, grain dust and bird and animal droppings. Because of his history of asbestos exposure and lack of exposure to the other common causes, Mr. [Redacted] pulmonary fibrosis is at least as likely as not to have been caused by asbestos. Mr. [Redacted] states he was exposed to asbestos in the Navy while assigned on a ship, he slept under an asbestos wrapped pipe, and worked in various areas of the ships engine room that also had asbestos wrapped pipes. I have concluded that the increased risk of developing pulmonary fibrosis due to the asbestos exposure means that the asbestos exposure was at least a 50% contributing factor in his development of this type of lung disease.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions

Sincerely, Dr [Redacted]