#### Department of Veterans Affairs M21-1, Part I, Chapter 1

**Veterans Benefits Administration March 24, 2015**

**Washington, DC 20420**

#### Transmittal Sheet

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| Changes Included in This Revision | The table below describes the changes included in this revision of Veterans Benefits Manual M21-1, Part I, “Claimants Rights and Responsibilities,” Chapter 1, “Duty to Assist.”***Notes***: Minor editorial changes have also been made to * update incorrect or obsolete hyperlink references
* update section and topic titles to more accurately reflect their content
* renumber each topic based on the standard that the first topic in each section is Topic 1, and
* bring the documents into conformance with M21-1 and Knowledge Management (KM) standards.
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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| To clarify the requirements for submitting a claim for increase prior to, and effective March 24, 2015. | M21-1, Part I, Chapter 1, Section B, Topic 1, Block b (I.1.B.1.b) |
| To update references of “claim for an earlier effective date” to “request for an earlier effective date” to clearly indicate that such a request is not a claim. | I.1.B.1.d and e |
| To clarify the requirements for accepting statements on *VA Form 21-4142,* *Authorization to Disclose Information to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA),* as a disability claim or request for application prior to, and effective March 24, 2015. | I.1.B.1.i |
| To clarify that a claim must be submitted in addition to new and material evidence in order to file a reopened claim. | I.1.B.2.b |

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| Rescissions | None |

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| Authority | By Direction of the Under Secretary for Benefits |

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| Signature | Thomas J. Murphy, DirectorCompensation Service |

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