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

**Veterans Benefits Administration March 24, 2015**

**Washington, DC 20420**

#### Transmittal Sheet

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Rescissions | None |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signature | Thomas J. Murphy, Director  Compensation Service |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Distribution | LOCAL REPRODUCTION AUTHORIZED |