#### Department of Veterans Affairs M21-1MR, Part III, Subpart i

**Veterans Benefits Administration December 19, 2014**

**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 M21-1MR, Part III, “General Claims Process,” Subpart i, “Overview of Claims Processing and Structure of the Veterans Service Center.” |

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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| To add two more reasons for excluding a claim from the Fully Developed Claim (FDC) Program. | Part III, Subpart i, Chapter 3, Section B, Topic 5, Block a (III.i.3.B.5.a) |
| To add additional special issue indicators (Step 2) and notice letter entries (Step 3) for excluding a claim from the FDC Program. | III.i.3.B.5.c |
| * To add another type of claim development that will not be undertaken for claims in the FDC Program. * To delete the exception that refers the reader to (old) III.i.3.B.7. The exception no longer applies and (old) Topic 7 has been deleted. | III.i.3.B.6.a |
| To add a new topic that discusses informal FDCs (from Fast Letter (FL) 12-25, *Fully Developed Claim Program*) and application of the provisions of Section 506 of *PL 112-154* (FL 13-17, *Processing Fully Developed Original Claims Received from August 6, 2013 through August 5, 2015*). | III.i.3.B.7 |
| To delete (old) III.i.3.B.7 based on an Office of General Council opinion that the notice requirements in *Kent v. Nicholson* do not apply to reopened claims.  FDC claimants ***must*** submit their claim on one of the EZ forms listed in III.i.3.A.2.a.  These forms contain Section 5103 notice regarding the requirement to submit new and material evidence.  Therefore, according to the OGC opinion, neither general nor case-specific notification of this requirement is necessary. | --- |

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| Rescissions | FL 13-17 |

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

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

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