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

**Veterans Benefits Administration June 21, 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 III, “General Claims Process,” Subpart ii, “Initial Screening and Determining Veterans Status.” ***Notes***: * Unless otherwise noted, the term “claims folder” refers to the official, numbered, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) repository – whether paper or electronic – for all documentation relating to claims that a Veteran and/or his/her survivors file with VA.
* Minor editorial changes have also been made to
* update incorrect or obsolete hyperlink references
* update obsolete terminology, where appropriate,
* reassign alphabetical designations to individual blocks, where necessary to account for new and/or deleted blocks within a topic
* update section and topic titles to more accurately reflect their content
* clarify block labels and/or block text, and
* bring the document into conformance with M21-1.
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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| * To include the following prescribed forms
* *VA Form 21-601, Application for Accrued Amounts Due to a Deceased Beneficiary*, for accrued benefits only, and
* *VA Form 21P-509, Statement of Dependency of Parents*, for dependent parents only.
* To correctly list *VA Form 21-4555c, Veteran/Servicemember's Supplemental Application for Assistance in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing*, under the specially adapted housing (SAH) or special home adaptation (SHA) portion of the table.
* To separate housebound/aid and attendance (A&A) benefits into separate portions of the table for special monthly compensation (SMC) and special monthly pension (SMP).
* To clarify that the following *VA Forms* can also be used as standalone claims forms for their corresponding benefits:
* *21-8940, Veteran’s Application for Increased Compensation Based on Unemployability*
* *21-2680,* *Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance*, for SMC and/or aid and attend attendance (A&A) or SMP A&A
* *26-4555, Application in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing or Special Home Adaptation Grant*, for SAH and/or SHA, and
* *21-4502, Application for Automobile or Other Conveyance and Adaptive Equipment*, Auto Allowance.
* To indicate the information provided on *VA Form 21-0538, Status of Dependents Questionnaire*, can be used to add a dependent to an award.
 |  M21-1, Part III, Subpart ii, Chapter 2, Section B, Topic 1, Block b (III.ii.2.B.1.b) |
| To create new Block d providing guidance and examples on processing benefits sought by a claimant submitted on the appropriate prescribed form and also benefits sought by a claimant submitted on a form not prescribed for the specific benefit. | III.ii.2.B.1.d |
| To create new Block e describing how to process receipt of a prescribed form with additional correspondence that identifies benefits sought, but not listed on the prescribed form. | III.ii.2.B.1.e |

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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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