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

**Veterans Benefits Administration June 15, 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 Veteran Status.”  ***Notes***:   * The term regional office (RO) also includes pension management center (PMC), where appropriate. * Minor editorial changes have also been made to * remove references to rescinded portions of M21-1 * update incorrect or obsolete hyperlink references * unless otherwise noted, the term “claims folder” refers to either paper or electronic folders in which VA stores documentation relevant to claims * reassign alphabetical designations to individual blocks and repaginate, where necessary, to account for new and/or deleted blocks within a topic * renumber each topic based on the standard that the first topic in each section is Topic 1, * update topic titles to more accurately reflect their content, and * bring the documents into conformance with M21-1 standards. |

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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| * To update that the Pittsburgh Regional Office (RO) has jurisdiction of live compensation claims and appeals involving a foreign residence. * To update that the Philadelphia Pension Management Center (PMC) has jurisdiction of pension claims, survivors claims, and appeals for pension and survivors claims involving a foreign residence. * To add a reference to refer to jurisdiction of claims folders for living Veterans. | Part III, Subpart ii, Chapter 5, Section B, Block b  (III.ii.5.B.1.b) |
| To update that the Philadelphia PMC has jurisdiction of burial or accrued claims in which expenses of last illness or burial involve foreign currency. | III.ii.5.B.1.c |
| To delete block entitled “Areas Under Jurisdiction of Houston, White River Junction, and Pittsburgh” because it contained outdated information regarding jurisdiction of foreign residence cases and updated information is located in III.ii.5.B.1.b. | ---------------------- |
| To update guidance for jurisdiction of in-service death claims to indicate that the Philadelphia Veterans Service (VSC) has jurisdiction of all original claims, and that the PMC of jurisdiction has jurisdiction of all reopened claims. | III.ii.5.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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| Signatures | Thomas J. Murphy, Director  Compensation Service  David McLenachen, Director  Pension and Fiduciary Service |

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