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

**Veterans Benefits Administration May 18, 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 iii, “General Development and Dependency Issues”***Notes***: * The term “regional office” (RO) also includes pension management center (PMC), where appropriate.
* 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 dependent(s) file with VA.
* Minor editorial changes have also been made to
* update incorrect or obsolete references
* update obsolete terminology, where appropriate
* renumber each topic to account for new and/or deleted topics
* reassign alphabetical designations to individual blocks and repaginate, 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 standards.
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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| To incorporate additional references for submitting a Personnel Information Exchange System (PIES) request and obtaining inpatient clinical records. | M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, Chapter 2, Section A, Topic 1, Block b(III.iii.2.A.1.b) |
| To incorporate reference for handling requests for the return of original STRs. | III.iii.2.A.1.d |
| To incorporate the definition of clinical records.  | III.iii.2.A.2.a |
| To incorporate guidance that informs the target audience how clinical records are stored. | III.iii.2.A.2.b |
| To incorporate guidance that informs the target audience how to request clinical records from National Personnel Records Center (NPRC).  | III.iii.2.A.2.c |
| To incorporate guidance that informs the target audience how to request clinical records from military treatment facility (MTF). | III.iii.2.A.2.d |
| * To update address and telephone number in the sample letter for responding to an inquiry when service treatment records (STRs) did contain a deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) specimen, and
* to reformat the sample letter from an image to typed text.
 | III.iii.2.A.3.j |
| * To update address and telephone number in the sample letter for responding to an inquiry when STRs did not contain a DNA specimen, and
* to reformat the sample letter from an image to typed text.
 | III.iii.2.A.3.k |
| To remove copy 3 of DD Form 214 as a notice provided to the Veterans Assistance Discharge System (VADS) for manual entry into the corporate record. | III.iii.2.A.8.c |

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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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