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

**Veterans Benefits Administration August 5, 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 iv, “General Rating Process.”  ***Notes***:   * The term regional office (RO) also includes pension management center (PMC), where appropriate. * The term Veterans Service Center Manager (VSCM) also includes Pension Management Center Manager (PMCM), where appropriate. * Minor editorial changes have also been made to * clarify block labels and/or block text, and * bring the documents into conformance with M21-1 standards. |

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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| To incorporate guidance from the February 2014 Veterans Service Center Manager (VSCM) Bulletin on when x-rays are (and are not) necessary in claims for service connection for arthritis vs. joint pain. | M21-1, Part III, Subpart iv, Chapter 3, Section D, Topic 4, Block g (III.iv.3.D.4.g) |

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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, Director  Compensation Service |

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