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

**Veterans Benefits Administration April 6, 2015**

**Washington, DC 20420**

#### Transmittal Sheet

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 * re-title the Section to more accurately reflect content * clarify language in blocks * renumber each topic based on the standard that the first topic in each section is Topic 1, and * bring the document into conformance with M21-1 standards. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| To clarify the language on joint conferences between Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) and Veterans Health Administration (VHA). | Part III, Subpart iv, Chapter 3, Section E, Topic 1, Block c (III.iv.3.E.1.c) |
| To clarify the purpose of joint conferences. | III.iv.3.E.1.d |
| To add more issues to be covered in joint conferences. | III.iv.3.E.1.e |
| To clarify that assistance on joint conference issues may be reported to Pension and Fiduciary Service as applicable. | III.iv.3.E.1.f |
| To add a new Block g on the role of Quality Review Specialists in joint conferences. | III.iv.3.E.1.g |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Rescissions | None |

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

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Distribution | LOCAL REPRODUCTION AUTHORIZED |