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

**Veterans Benefits Administration May 8, 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***: Minor editorial changes have been made to * update incorrect or obsolete hyperlink references
* update obsolete terminology, where appropriate
* renumber each topic based on the standard that the first topic in each section is Topic 1
* reassign alphabetical designations to individual blocks and repaginate, where necessary, to account for new and/or deleted blocks within a topic
* 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 add a new Block a with general information describing the process of scheduling Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) examinations. | M21-1, Part III, Subpart iv, Chapter 3, Section B, Topic 1, Block a (III.iv.3.B.1.a) |
| To clarify procedures for handling exam requests for VA-employee claimants. | III.iv.3.B.1.b |
| To relocate content from III.ii.1.C.5.d regarding procedures for examining employees who work at examining facilities in. | III.iv.3.B.1.c |
| * To clarify that if an exam is needed for a condition that is subject to episodic improvement, and it is known when symptoms would likely be present, then the exam request should include this information.
* To add a note regarding the Acceptable Clinical Evidence (ACE) process.
 | III.iv.3.B.1.d |
| To remove (old) Block e regarding failure to report for examination as this information is contained elsewhere in the manual. | -- |
| * To move content from Block a to Block e for clarity.
* To add a cross reference for specialist examinations.
 | III.iv.3.B.1.e |
| To add additional information from 38 CFR 3.327 about criteria for requesting a review examination.  | III.iv.3.B.2.a |
| To add additional criteria for not requesting a review examination under 38 CFR 3.327. | III.iv.3.B.2.c |
| To add a new Block d containing instructions about scheduling a second review examination when the first examination shows improvement. | III.iv.3.B.2.d |
| To update procedures and references for cancelling a review examination. | III.iv.3.B.2.f |
| To add a note regarding a Veteran’s refusal to participate in an examination without the presence of an attorney or a recording device being considered a failure to report for examination under 38 CFR 3.655 based on VAOPGCPREC 04-91. | III.iv.3.B.2.g |
| To remove effective date guidance for Chapter 35 entitlement and add reference to the relevant section of the manual where this information is contained in full. | III.iv.3.B.2.h |

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| Rescissions | Fast Letter 10-14, *Procedural Change Regarding Routine Future Examinations* |

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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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