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

**Veterans Benefits Administration April 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 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 * update incorrect or obsolete hyperlink references * updated obsolete hyperlinks * 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, 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 add language to clarify when separate evaluations for co-existing respiratory conditions are prohibited, including when rating residuals of malignant and benign neoplasms of the respiratory system. | M21-1, Part III, Subpart iv, Chapter 4, Section D, Topic 1, Block f (III.iv.4.D.1.f) |
| To add a new Block g that provides details in regards to evaluating gunshot wounds of specific muscle groups with an additional respiratory disability. | III.iv.4.D.1.g |
| To add a new Block h that provides extensive details in regards to when pulmonary function tests are required. | III.iv.4.D.1.h |
| To add a new Block i that provides instructions on interpreting pulmonary function test results. | III.iv.4.D.1.i |
| To add a new Block j that provides details on the requirement for post-bronchodilator studies and evaluations based on them. | III.iv.4.D.1.j |
| To add a new Block m that provides details on the requirement for a diagnosis of sleep apnea to be confirmed by sleep study and instructions on processing claims without a previous sleep study. | III.iv.4.D.1.m |
| To add a table clarifying which x-ray films are required to prove service connection for pulmonary tuberculosis. | III.iv.4.D.2.e |

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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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