**Department of Veterans Affairs** **Part III, Subpart iv**

**Veterans Benefits Administration September 22, 2014**

**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 M21-1MR Part III “General Claims Process,” Subpart iv, “General Rating Process.”  ***Notes***:   * In addition to the changes listed below minor editorial changes have also been made to * clarify block labels and/or block text without changing any policy, procedure, concept or process. * reassign alphabetical designations to individual blocks and repaginate, where necessary, to account for new and/or deleted blocks within a topic * update incorrect or obsolete hyperlink references * update the term “veteran” to “Veteran”, and * update obsolete terminology, where appropriate. |

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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation | Page(s) |
| * To update the Topic 20 title to more accurately reflect its content * To add a (new) Block a with the regulatory definitions of hypertension and isolated systolic hypertension. | Part III, Subpart iv, Chapter 4, Section E, Topic 20, Block a (III.iv.4.E.20.a) | 4-E-2 |
| * To add a (new) Block b with guidance on when current blood pressure readings meeting the regulatory definitions are required or not required in order to grant service connection for hypertensive vascular disease. * To add references. | III.iv.4.E.20.b | 4-E-3 |
| To add a (new) Block c with guidance on the regulatory multiple readings requirement. | III.iv.4.E.20.c | 4-E-4 |
| * To add a definition of pre-hypertension and to clarify the guidance on clarifying a diagnosis of prehypertension. * To add a reference. | III.iv.4.E.20.d | 4-E-5 |

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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation | Page(s) |
| * To add a (new) Block e with guidance on assessing predominant blood pressure in evaluations of hypertension. | III.iv.4.E.20.e | 4-E-6 to  4-E-8 |
| * To clarify that the block guidance applies in the context of claimed cardiovascular disease. | III.iv.4.E.20.h | 4-E-10 |
| * To clarify guidance on service connection of manifestations of advanced arteriosclerotic disease in service. * To clarify that the block guidance applies in the context of claimed cardiovascular disease. * To provide additional rationale for the principle that identification of coronary heart disease early in service is not sufficient alone to grant service connection. * To clarify the policy on service connection of sudden coronary occlusion or thrombosis. | III.iv.4.E.20.i | 4-E-10 |

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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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