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

**Veterans Benefits Administration June 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.” ***Note***: Minor editorial changes have been made to * update incorrect or obsolete 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, 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 documents into conformance with M21-1 standards.
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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| To streamline existing old Topic 25, “General Information on Neurological and Convulsive Disorders” and move certain locks to other topics. | M21-1, Part III, Subpart iv, Chapter 4, Section G, Topic 1 (III.iv.4.G.1) |
| To clarify etiological considerations for neurological conditions by including table. | III.iv.4.G.1.a |
| To relocate old Block f, “Identifying Epilepsy” to new Block b. | III.iv.4.G.1.b |
| To relocate Blocks about traumatic brain injury (TBI), peripheral nerves, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and migraine headaches into new Topics. | III.iv.4.G.1.c-i (old) |
| To add a new Topic 2, “Traumatic Brain Injury,” containing definitions, as well as guidance regarding* TBI residuals
* TBI and mental disorders
* TBI and SMC
* evaluating TBI
* temporary total evaluations, and
* training and signature requirements for TBI decisions.
 | III.iv.4.G.2 |
| To add a new Topic 3, “Secondary Conditions Associated with TBI,” containing information on * references to 38 CFR 3.310 regarding
* secondary service connection
* the TBI initial severity table
* initial severity factors
* blast injury registry
* diagnosable conditions secondary to TBI
* considerations when establishing secondary SC, and
* effective dates for conditions secondary to TBI.
 | III.iv.4.G.3 |
| To add a new Topic 4, “Peripheral Nerves,” which clarifies and offers more specific guidance on * evaluating evidence to assign level of incomplete paralysis
* separate evaluations of lower extremity nerve branches
* determining individual nerves affected in lower extremities, and
* evidence or tests for peripheral nerve conditions.
 | III.iv.4.G.4 |
| To relocate old Topic 26, “Multiple Sclerosis” to new Topic 5. | III.iv.4.G.5 (old 26) |
| To add a new Block d providing guidance on the requirements for presumptive service connection (SC) for Multiple Sclerosis. | III.iv.4.G.5.d |
| To add a new Topic 6, “ALS,” providing evaluation guidelines and information on* the definition of ALS
* establishing presumptive SC for ALS
* assigning a 100-percent minimum evaluation for ALS, and
* ALS and ancillary benefits.
 | III.iv.4.G.6 |
| To add a new Topic 7, “Migraine Headaches” providing information about* evaluation criteria
* terminology including
* prostrating
* completely prostrating
* severe economic inadaptability
* less frequent
* very frequent
* types of proof for frequency determinations, and
* headache journals.
 | III.iv.4.G.7 |

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| Rescissions | Training Letter 09-01 |

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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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