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

**Veterans Benefits Administration April 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 also been made to * update incorrect or obsolete references * update the term “veteran” to “Veteran” * 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 move text from Block b to this block and add a definition of diabetes mellitus. | M21-1, Part III, Subpart iv, Chapter 4, Section F, Topic 1, Block a  (III.iv.4.F.1.a) |
| To add a new Block c with information on the successive criteria requirement for the next higher disability evaluation for diabetes mellitus. | III.iv.4.F.1.c |
| * To add information on the need to consider more than a single issue. * To update references for diabetes mellitus. | III.iv.4.F.1.d |
| To add a new topic about the complications of diabetes | III.iv.4.F.2 |
| To add information on the full scope of complications of diabetes mellitus. | III.iv.4.F.2.a |
| To add information on cardiovascular complications of diabetes mellitus. | III.iv.4.F.2.b |
| To add background information on hypertension principles. | III.iv.4.F.2.c |
| To add guidance on actions to take when evidence supports that hypertension is or is not a complication of diabetes. | III.iv.4.F.2.d |
| To add information on addressing unclaimed hypertension as a complication of diabetes mellitus. | III.iv.4.F.2.e |
| To add information on development for the relationship between diabetes mellitus and hypertension. | III.iv.4.F.2.f |
| To add information on the neurological complications of diabetes mellitus. | III.iv.4.F.2.g |
| To add information on rating the level of incomplete paralysis of the peripheral nerves. | III.iv.4.F.2.h |
| To add information on the ophthalmological complications of diabetes mellitus. | III.iv.4.F.2.i |
| To add information on the genitourinary complications of diabetes mellitus. | III.iv.4.F.2.j |
| To add information on the musculoskeletal complications of diabetes mellitus. | III.iv.4.F.2.k |
| To add information on immune and other miscellaneous complications of diabetes mellitus. | III.iv.4.F.2.l |
| To add information on the skin complications of diabetes mellitus. | III.iv.4.F.2.m |
| * To add additional guidance and revise existing guidance on rating conditions due to hyperthyroidism. * To differentiate between successive and variable rating criteria as provided for by *Tatum v. Shinseki*. | III.iv.4.F.4.b |

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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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