#### 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***:   * Unless otherwise noted, the term “claims folder” refers to the official, numbered, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) repository – whether paper or electronic – for all documentation relating to claims that a Veteran and/or his/her dependent(s) file with VA. * Minor editorial changes have also been made to * update incorrect or obsolete references * update obsolete terminology, where appropriate * 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 remove information from the block regarding deferring the issue of service connection in a death case. | Part III, Subpart IV, Chapter 6, Section A, Block c (III.iv.6.A.c) |
| To remove information from the block regarding rating decisions for cause of discharge due to disability with less than 90 days of service. | III.iv.6.A.c |
| * To remove information about deferring the issue of cause of death if granting Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) under 38 U.S.C. 1318, in accordance with Fast Letter (FL) 13-04, *Simplified Processing of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Claims*. * To add a table to the block to clarify the appropriate action to take regarding evidence requested when service connection for cause of death is deferred for further development. | III.iv.6.A.e |
| To remove Block f as it did not contain information relevant to the issue of deferred decisions or intermediate ratings. | -- |

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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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