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

**Veterans Benefits Administration April 3, 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.
* 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 or remove incorrect or obsolete references
* update or remove obsolete terminology, where appropriate
* delete material that is duplicative or that is being relocated elsewhere in M21-1
* renumber each topic based on the standard that the first topic in each section is Topic 1
* reassign alphabetical designations to individual blocks and repaginate, 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 provide updated information on how special provision codes are populated in the Veterans Benefits Management System- Rating (VBMS-R). | M21-1, Part III, Subpart iv, Chapter 6, Section D, Topic 4, Block b (III.iv.6.D.4.b) |
| To add a block describing special provision code 1. | III.iv.6.D.4.c |
| To add a block describing special provision code 2. | III.iv.6.D.4.d |
| To add a block describing special provision code 5. | III.iv.6.D.4.g |
| To add a block describing special provision code 7. | III.iv.6.D.4.i |
| To remove old Topic 17 and relocate future physical examination codes to III.iv.3. | ---- |
| To provide updated information on how special monthly compensation (SMC) codes are populated in VBMS. | III.iv.6.D.5.a |
| To remove old Topic 19 and relocate information about disability rating codes to III.iv.3. | ----- |
| To add information into the block that provides information on application of the amputation rule. | III.iv.6.D.6.c |
| To add a block describing the requirement for special coding for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive related cases. | III.iv.6.D.6.f |
| * To update the guidance on signature requirements to include information on electronic signatures in VBMS-R.
* To move information from former Block b on the obligations that signing the rating decision implies.
 | III.iv.6.D.7.a |
| * To remove old Topic 21, Block e, as this is now obsolete.
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| * To add categories of rating decisions that always require a second *signature.*
* *To specify that ratings on SMC at a rate greater than SMC (l)* now require a second signature.
* To clarify the second signature requirement on traumatic brain injury ratings.
 | III.iv.6.D.7 |
| To add a topic on non-binding, signed rating decisions. | III.iv.6.D.8 |
| To add topics that include example draft rating codesheets for clear and unmistakable errors (CUEs) and application of the amputation rule. | III.iv.6.D.9 and 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, DirectorCompensation Service |

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