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

**Veterans Benefits Administration June 30, 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 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 survivors file with VA. * Minor editorial changes have also 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 * 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 add a new Block b to relocate definition and example of an expressly claimed issue. | M21-1, Part III, Subpart iv, Chapter 6, Section B, Topic 1, Block b  (III.iv.6.B.1.b) |
| To add a new Block c and provide a definition and examples of a reasonably-raised claim. | III.iv.6.B.1.c |
| To add a new Block d and provide a definition and example of an unclaimed subordinate issue. | III.iv.6.B.1.d |
| To add a new Block e and provide a definition and example of an ancillary benefit. | III.iv.6.B.1.e |
| To remove old III.iv.6.B.2.a related to the definition of subordinate issues as this information was moved to Topic 1. | -- |
| To remove old III.iv.6.B.2.b related to definition of ancillary benefits as this information was moved to Topic 1. | -- |
| * To incorporate regulatory change under 38 CFR 3.808 that allows a severe burn injury to qualify for entitlement to automobile allowance and adaptive equipment. * To provide guidance on addressing Aid and Attendance (A&A) benefits when a single 100-percent evaluation is assigned. * To provide guidance regarding the allowance of Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) and Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA) benefits if Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) under 38 U.S.C. 1318 is awarded. * To provide guidance on when to address hypertension as secondary to diabetes mellitus or diabetic nephropathy. | III.iv.6.B.2.b |
| To provide guidance on instances in which it is appropriate to submit a compensation claim to Compensation Service for extra-schedular consideration pursuant to *Johnson v. McDonald*. | III.iv.6.B.4.c |
| To add a new Block d with further guidance on determining the collective impact of multiple disabilities with example. | III.iv.6.B.4.d |
| * To provide instruction not to solicit a claim for 1151 compensation even if evidence of record exists that may suggest or raise the possibility that 38 U.S.C. 1151 may be applicable. * To provide instruction on when 38 CFR 4.7 applies. * To provide guidance to evaluate a claim for a temporary total evaluation under 38 CFR 4.29 or 4.30 as part of a claim for increased evaluation for the underlying disability. * To provide guidance in evaluating disabilities based upon *Tatum* and *Camacho* case law. * To add survivor applications that would require consideration of accrued benefits if a disability claim was pending at the time of death. | III.iv.6.B.5.a |

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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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