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

**Veterans Benefits Administration April 27, 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, and
* bring the document into conformance with M21-1 standards.
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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| To add discussion on uploading of the final rating decision when an eFolder is involved. | Part III, Subpart iv, Chapter 7, Section A, Topic 1, block b(III.iv.7.A.1.b)  |
| To add discussion on filing rating decisions involving an eFolder, and a reference to the VBMS Job Aid for deferrals. | III.iv.7.A.1.c |
| To delete references pertaining to substantive and non-substantive rating decision errors. | III.iv.7.A.1.d |
| To remove III.iv.7.A.1.f on distributing a copy of the rating *Codesheet*, and add a note in Block e (Distributing the *Narrative* Section of the Rating Decision) indicating that *Codesheets* should not routinely be distributed to the claimant. | III.iv.7.A.1.e |
| To add a new Block b on VSO review of rating decisions in VBMS. | III.iv.7.A.2.b |
| To add discussion on notifying the VSCM or designee for insurance purposes when an electronic rating decision is completed for a terminally- ill Veteran. | III.iv.7.A.2.c |
| To amend the block on furnishing a copy of the rating decision to Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VRE), to update procedures and delete the obsolete *VA Form 28-6564, Vocational Rehabilitation Participant Claims Folder Flash*. | III.iv.7.A.2.d |
| To remove III.iv.7.A.2.d as it contained outdated information regarding copies of pension entitlement. | -- |
| To add discussion on notifying the VSCM or designee when an electronic rating decision is completed restoring competency.  | III.iv.7.A.2.f |
| To remove III.iv.7.A.2.g as it contained outdated information regarding providing copies of the rating decision in special law code 10 cases. | -- |
| To remove III.iv.7.A.2.h as it contained outdated information regarding providing a copy of the rating decision on specially adapted housing to Loan Guaranty. The Specially Adapted Housing/Special Home Adaptations ( SAHSHA) system automatically notifies Loan Guaranty when a rating decision is completed. | -- |

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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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