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

**Veterans Benefits Administration May 19, 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 hyperlink 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 and repaginate, where necessary, to account for new and/or deleted blocks within a topic
* update manual references to the new format
* add Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) terminology where applicable
* update section and topic titles to more accurately reflect their content
* clarify block labels and/or block text, and
* bring the documents into conformance with M21-1 standards.
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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| To amend Topic 1 (old Topic 3) and provide an overview of what the section is all about.  | M21-1, Part III, Subpart iv, Chapter 7, Section B, Topic 1 (III.iv.7.B.1) |
| To move the old Topic 3 on Handling Changes in the Rating Schedule to the last topic of the section, designated as a new topic 4. | III.iv.7.B.4 |
| To add Block a to differentiate dissenting vs. difference of opinion, and to add a discussion on handling dissenting opinions for electronic rating decisions. | III.iv.7.B.2.a and c |
| To transfer and incorporate duplicate power of attorney (POA) and Veteran service organization (VSO) guidance found in III.iv.7.B.3 into I.3.B.4; deleted III.iv.7.B.3 once transfer was completed, and a reference to I.3.B.4 provided. |  --- |
| To delete substantive and non-substantive error terminologies (combining these blocks, and deleting the old Block b), and substitute with a list of errors in the *Narrative* and *Codesheet* sections of the rating decisionswhich must be corrected. Also added references to 38 CFR 3.103 (due process procedures) and 38 CFR 3.105 (CUE). | III.iv.7.B.3.a and b |
| To amend the note on correcting errors in a rating decision to allow VSC management discretion on assigning the work to another decisionmaker. | III.iv.7.B.3.c |
| To delete Block d on *Correcting the Anatomical Site of a Disability*, and combine with the previous block on *Revising Erroneous Anatomical Qualifiers* as it pertains to the same topic. | III.iv.7.B.3.d |
| * To add progression of a disability to one of the reasons for changing a diagnostic code (DC).
* To add a discussion on special annotations needed in the Veterans Benefits Management System for Rating (VBMS-R) when changing a DC, along with examples.
 | III.iv.7.B.4.c |

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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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