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

**Veterans Benefits Administration May 20, 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 terminology and references
* update the term “veteran” to “Veteran”
* update the term “notification letter” to “decision notice”
* 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
* 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 enhance the contents of Topic 1, Block a with a discussion of 38 CFR 3.655(c)(2), and elements of the due process requirement prior to finalizing an adverse action. | M21-1, Part III, Subpart iv, Chapter 8, Section E, Topic 1, Block a(III.iv.8.E.1.a) |
| To remove detailed discussion of ‘good cause’ in lieu of this topic being added to M21-1, Part I, Chapter 1, Section C. | III.iv.8.E.1.a |
| To add blocks to the topic on failure to report for an examination, with more details on rating considerations for the proposed as well as final rating decisions, and possible scenarious after the proposed decision is sent out. | III.iv.8.E.1 |
| * To add a table on rating activity action needed in a situation where there is no static or protected disability versus a situation where there is a static or protected disability involved.
* To add a reference for definition of a static disability.
 | III.iv.8.E.1.c |
| To add a note that in pension cases, each known disability has to be reviewed and evaluated to determine continued entitlement. | III.iv.8.E.1.g |
| To add discussion on the regulations governing revision of decisions which are final and binding. | III.iv.8.E.2.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, DirectorCompensation Service |

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