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

**Veterans Benefits Administration June 4, 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 v, “General Authorization Issues and Claimant Notifications.”***Notes***: Minor editorial changes have also been made to * update incorrect or obsolete references
* update obsolete terminology, where appropriate
* remove references to specific claims-processing systems, where doing so does not affect the clarity of the instructions or information provided
* 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 remove the bullet about sending a Personnel Information Exchange System (PIES) request using code O99 because the reference to III.iii.2.E.10.a includes full details and exceptions for verifying whether the Veteran had the requisite service for pension benefits. | Part III, Subpart v, Chapter 1, Section D, Topic 2, Block b (III.v.1.D.1.d) |
| * To add a note stating that alcohol rehabilitation failure by itself does not constitute willful misconduct, per *Martin v. McDonald*.
* To add a reference for additional information about requesting and reviewing facts and circumstances.
 | III.v.1.D.2.b |
| To move old Topic III.iii.1.B.9, *Development of Claims Involving Accidental Injuries,* to new Topic III.v.1.D.5. | III.v.1.D.5 |
| To add additional information regarding where development letters for police report are requested. | III.v.1.D.5.b |
| To include guidance stating that a line-of-duty determination is not required for claimants of verified full-time National Guard service under 32 U.S.C. 502 as part of the Active Guard Reserve when the evidence shows that the claimed disability is a result of an illness or injury incurred or aggravated while in that status, as long as the duty status is verified and there is no indication of willful misconduct. | III.v.1.D.6.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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