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

**Veterans Benefits Administration March 23, 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***:   * 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 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, * 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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| Reasons for the Change | Citation |
| To include the requirement for an administrative decision regarding former prisoner of war (FPOW) status when a reasonable basis exists for questioning service department findings as prescribed by 38 CFR 3.1(y). | M21-1, Part III, Subpart v, Chapter 1, Section C, Topic 1, Block g  (III.v.1.C.1.g) |
| To change the topic title from “Developing for Former Prisoner of War (FPOW) Status” to “Determining FPOW status.” The change was conducted to separate authorization content from duplicate development content that is covered in M21-1IV.ii.1.G. | III.v.1.C.2 |
| To relocate references from III.v.1.C.2.a to the more relevant location in block b of the same topic. | III.v.1.C.2.b |
| To remove content that discusses development for service department information on FPOW status previously located in III.v.1.C.2.c. The change was conducted to separate authorization content from duplicate development content that is covered in IV.ii.1.G. | -- |
| To replace concurrence by “an authorizer” with “the Regional Office (RO) Veteran Service Center Manager (VSCM).” This change is in line with requirements for requesting guidance from Compensation Service outlined in III.vi.1.A. | III.v.1.C.3.a |
| To update procedural guidance for routing RO determinations to Compensation Service when granting or denying FPOW status in a paper or electronic claims folder. | III.v.1.C.3.b |
| To add a reference for information on requesting guidance from Compensation Service found in III.iv.1.A. | III.v.1.C.3.b |

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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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