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

**Veterans Benefits Administration May 11, 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 survivors file with VA. * Minor editorial changes have also been made to * update incorrect or obsolete references * update the term “veteran” to “Veteran” * 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 reduce lengthy block b to discussion of the responsibility of the treating VA facility to initiate the *VA Form 10-7131, Exchange of Beneficiary Information and Request for Administrative and Adjudicative Action* for dental claims. | Part III, Subpart v, Chapter 7, Section C, Topic 1, Block b (III.v.7.C.1.b) |
| To add a new block c incorporating the information from former block b discussing the responsibility of the treating VA facility to complete development in dental claims. | III.v.7.C.1.c |
| To remove information with specific procedures for Personnel Information Exchange System (PIES) and add references to procedures for verifying former prisoner of war (FPOW) status and developing for FPOW service records. | III.v.7.C.1.e |
| * To remove clarify text by adding reference to 38 CFR 4.28, 4.29, and 4.30 to note in table step 2. * To add a reference to 38 CFR 3.381 for the responsibility of the Veterans Service Center (VSC) to make dental treatment determinations. | III.v.7.C.1.g |
| To update text to conform to the Standard Claims and Appeals rule by deleting reference to specific forms.. | III.v.7.C.3.a |
| * To reformat the Step/Action table into an If/Then table based on the content of the steps containing if/then scenarios. * To add text clarifying the prohibition of temporary 100 percent evaluations under 38 CFR 4.28, 4.29, and 4.30 as qualifications for totally disabled service-connected Veterans * To clarify the text under the Then column that each action should be to “annotate the Remarks section of Part II…” for consistency | III.v.7.C.4.a |
| To remove text referring to stapling a copy of a rating decision when disposing of *VA Form 10-7131* and update link to appropriate system user guide. | III.v.7.C.5.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, Director  Compensation Service |

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