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

**Veterans Benefits Administration June 18, 2015**

**Washington, DC 20420**

#### Transmittal Sheet

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 vi, “Special Authorization Issues.”  ***Notes***: Minor editorial changes have also been made to   * update the term “veteran” to “Veteran” * update topic titles to more accurately reflect their content * renumber each topic based on the standard that the first topic in each section is Topic 1 * clarify block labels and/or block text, and * bring the document into conformance with M21-1 standards. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| * To clarify how debts are created based on retroactive reductions of an award. * To explain the waiver process as part of the Committee on Waivers and Compromises (COWC). | M21-1, Part III, Subpart vi, Chapter 2, Section C, Topic 1, Block a  (III.vi.2.C.1.a) |
| To delete III.vi.2.C.1.b because it refers to instructions contained in III.vi.2.C.3, a topic that has been deleted. | --- |
| To explain award processing after a request for waiver of a debt is granted. | III.vi.2.C.2.a |
| * To add a requirement that decision notices inform beneficiaries that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) withheld benefits from a retroactive award to prevent the duplicate payment of benefits following VA’s waiver of a prior debt. * To remove reference to a “Type 1” withholding, as this type of withholding existed only in the Benefits Delivery Network (BDN), which VA no longer uses to process awards of compensation or pension. | III.vi.2.C.2.b |
| To delete III.vi.2.C.3 because it contains instructions that apply only to the processing of awards in BDN. | --- |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Rescissions | None |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Authority | By Direction of the Under Secretary for Benefits |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signature | Thomas J. Murphy, Director  Compensation Service |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Distribution | LOCAL REPRODUCTION AUTHORIZED |