#### Department of Veterans Affairs M21-1, Part IV, Subpart ii

**Veterans Benefits Administration April 10, 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 IV, “Compensation, DIC, and Death Compensation Benefits,” Subpart ii, “Compensation.” ***Notes***: * The term “regional office” (RO) also includes pension management center (PMC), where appropriate.
* The term “Veterans Service Center Manager” (VSCM) also includes Pension Management Center Manager (PMCM), where appropriate.
* 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 references
* update obsolete terminology, where appropriate
* reassign alphabetical designations to individual blocks and repaginate, 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 rename the block from “When to Develop for the Status of the Veteran’s Dependents” to “Reviewing the Claim for Substantial Completion.” Furthermore, to provide a reference to I.1.B.1.a, “Criteria for Substantially Complete Applications”, as well as move language and references related to dependency development to a new block, IV.ii.1.A.1.c. | Part IV, Subpart ii, Chapter 1, Section A, Topic 1, Block a(IV.ii.1.A.1.a) |
| To move the block, “When to Submit Evidence to the rating activity justifying a Partial Grant”, to IV.ii.1.A.1.g and replace IV.ii.1.A.1.c with “Determining when to Develop for the Status of the Veteran’s Dependents”. | IV.ii.1.A.1.c |
| To add a block, “Reviewing the Claims Folder for Service Verification”, to provide a reference about military service verification. | IV.ii.1.A.1.d |
| To add ablock, “Submitting Requests for Service Records,” to provide guidance on the required development for service records. | IV.ii.1.A.1.e |
| To add a block, “Handling Other Requests for Information,” previously block e, to provide references about obtaining records from the Social Security Administration and other Federal and State agencies. | IV.ii.1.A.1.f |
| To create a new block to move the topic and change the topic title to “Determining when to Submit Evidence to the Rating Activity Justifying a Partial Grant”, originally located at IV.ii.1.A.1.c. | IV.ii.1.A.1.g |
| To delete the topic, “Establishing Entitlement Based on an Original VA Form 21-526,” due to new claims processing standards. | IV.ii.1.A.2.a |
| To delete the topic, “Action to Take When a Veteran’s SC Disabilities Are Rated 30 Percent or More Disabling,” because this duplicates what is already located in III.iii.5.A.1.h, “Relevancy of the Existence of Dependents When Processing Claims for Disability Compensation.” | IV.ii.1.A.2.b |
| To move IV.ii.1.A.2.c, “Handling Claims for Dental Treatment,” to IV.ii.1.A.2.a. | IV.ii.1.A.2.a |
| To delete the topic, “Developing for Continuity of Symptoms,” because this information is now contained in the *what the evidence must show to support your claim* (WTEMS) portion of *VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits*, and also in the §5103 notice that is sent out to claimants. | IV.ii.1.A.2.d |
| To move IV.ii.1.A.2.e, “Definition: Acute Disability,” to IV.ii.1.A.2.b. | IV.ii.1.A.2.b |
| To move IV.ii.1.A.2.f, “Handling Claims for Acute Disabilities,” to IV.ii.1.A.2.c. | IV.ii.1.A.2.c |
| To remove language specifically instructing the reader to extract information from MAP-D. Furthermore, to also include this information from MAP-D in the block, so as to maintain system neutrality between MAP-D and VBMS, and to prevent the need for a future update when MAP-D is no longer used in claims processing or becomes unavailable.  | IV.ii.1.A.3.a |
| To incorporate guidance pursuant to VAOPGCPREC 1-2011, related to requesting Quality Assurance Investigative Reports from Veterans Health Administration (VHA). | IV.ii.1.A.3.c |
| To remove the last bullet in IV.ii.1.A.3.c, “If quality assurance investigative reports are received from a VA medical facility, return the reports immediately.  Do not file copies of these reports in the Veteran’s claims folder,” as instructed by a field SME from an email dated February 27, 2015.  | IV.ii.1.A.3.c |
| To add a block, “Type of Documents That Qualify as Quality Assurance Reports,” to provide references for information on the documents that qualify as quality assurance reports, specifically, 38 CFR 17.501 and VAOPGCPREC 1-2011. | IV.ii.1.A.3.d |

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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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