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

**Veterans Benefits Administration June 3, 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.
* 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
* 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 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 incorporate guidance that discuss metastasis cancer.  | M21-1, Part IV, Subpart ii, Chapter 1, Section C, Topic 1, Block a(IV.ii.1.C.1.a) |
| To add additional guidance that informs the target audience to refrain from divulging confidential information concerning the nuclear weapons location.  | IV.ii.1.C.1.e |
| To incorporate guidance that informs the target audience how to redact classified information in a Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) claims folder.  | IV.ii.1.C.1.f |
| * To relocate guidance from old IV.ii.1.C.1.a. that discusses the centralized processing of all radiation claims.
* To add guidance that informs the target audience
* a radiogenic disease must be confirmed prior to transferring a claim to the Jackson Regional Office (RO), and
* a reference that informs the target audience on the criteria to consider before beginning development of an ionizing radiation claim.
 | IV.ii.1.C.2.a |
| To delete duplicate guidance from old IV.ii.1.C.2.a and relocate revised guidance from old IV.ii.1.C.2.b that establishes what criteria to consider before target audience conducts development activity. | IV.ii.1.C.2.b |
| To revise guidance that discusses what information the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) may seek when a referral is sent to an outside consultant to ensure the Veteran’s diseases resulted from radiation exposure.  | IV.ii.1.C.2.e |
| To incorporate guidance that informs the target audience that the Veteran must complete and sign a *VA Form 21-4142*, *Authorization to Disclose Information to VA, and/or VA Form 21-4142a*, *General Release for Medical Provider Information to VA*,if the claimant requires VA to assist with obtaining private treatment records.  | IV.ii.1.C.2.f |
| * To delete instructions for using PCGL to send a letter to DTRA.
* To add the requirement for the letter to include the Veteran’s address and phone number.
 | IV.ii.1.C.3.a |
| * To update contact information when requesting the service department verify radiation dose information for test participants.
* To add a note indicating that service department email addresses are not encrypted.
 | IV.ii.1.C.3.c |
| To add a new block incorporating guidance that discusses the Operation Tomodachi Registry (OTR) and how the target audience can obtain information on who is included in the registry.  | IV.ii.1.C.3.d |
| * To update contact information when requesting the service department to verify occupational exposure to radiation.
* To add a note indicating that service department email addresses are not encrypted.
 | IV.ii.1.C.3.f |
| To update contact information when requesting the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to verify occupational exposure to radiation. | IV.ii.1.C.3.g |
| To add a new block incorporating guidance that discusses obtaining radiation exposure records from the United States Army Public Health Command (USAPHC) Military Exposure Surveillance Library.  | IV.ii.1.C.3.h |
| To add a reference to IV.ii.1.C.5 for referring claims to Compensation Service, Policy Staff (211B). | IV.ii.1.C.3.i |
| To delete a block containing obsolete instructions for contacting Compensation Service, Policy Staff (211B). | IV.ii.1.C.4.a (old) |
| To incorporate guidance that informs the target audience to contact Compensation Service, Policy Staff (211B) for dose request instructions, if the claim involves an unusual condition or a non-radiogenic condition.  | IV.ii.1.C.4.a |
| To add a reference to IV.ii.1.C.5 for referring claims to Compensation Service, Policy Staff (211B). | IV.ii.1.C.4.c |
| To add a reference to IV.ii.1.C.5 for referring claims to Compensation Service, Policy Staff (211B). | IV.ii.1.C.4.e |
| * To update guidance that informs the target audience how to handle dose estimates submitted on behalf of the claimant.
* To add a reference to IV.ii.1.C.5 for referring claims to Compensation Service, Policy Staff (211B).
 | IV.ii.1.C.4.i |
| To add additional guidance that informs the target audience to include the dose assessment given by a credible independent expert when referring a claim based on exposure to ionizing radiation to Compensation Service, Policy Staff (211B). | IV.ii.1.C.5.c |
| To add a block with procedures for routing claims folders to Compensation Service. | IV.ii.1.C.5.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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