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

**Veterans Benefits Administration August 7, 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 survivors file with VA.
* Minor editorial changes have also been made to
* update incorrect or obsolete references
* update the term “notification letter” to “decision notice”
* 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 create a new section containing development guidance related to claims for service connection (SC) based on exposure types excluding herbicide guidance, which is contained at IV.ii.1.H. | M21-1, Part IV, Subpart ii, Chapter 1, Section I(IV.ii.1.I) |
| To relocate topic on developing claims for SC for positive tuberculin reactions from old IV.ii.1.H.26. | IV.ii.1.I.1 |
| To relocate information on the action to take when a positive tuberculin reaction only is claimed from old IV.ii.1.H.26.a. | IV.ii.1.I.1.a |
| To relocate information on the action to take when a positive tuberculin reaction and other disabilities are claimed from old IV.ii.1.H.26.b. | IV.ii.1.I.1.b |
| To relocate information on reporting responsibilities of VA outpatient clinics and VA medical centers (VAMCs) from old IV.ii.1.H.26.c. | IV.ii.1.I.1.c |
| To relocate topic on developing claims for SC for chronic or tropical diseases from old IV.ii.1.H.27. | IV.ii.1.I.2 |
| To relocate information on the definition of chronic disease from old IV.ii.1.H.27.a. | IV.ii.1.I.2.a |
| To relocate information on establishing whether a disease is chronic from old IV.ii.1.H.27.b. | IV.ii.1.I.2.b |
| To relocate information on considering SC for a chronic or tropical disease from old IV.ii.1.H.27.c. | IV.ii.1.I.2.c |
| To relocate information on considering presumptive SC from old IV.ii.1.H.27.d. | IV.ii.1.I.2.d |
| To relocate information on locations of lists of chronic and tropical diseases from old IV.ii.1.H.27.e. | IV.ii.1.I.2.e |
| To relocate information on the action to take if a chronic or tropical disease was treated in service from old IV.ii.1.H.27.f. | IV.ii.1.I.2.f |
| To relocate information on action to take if a chronic or tropical disease was not treated in service from old IV.ii.1.H.27.g. | IV.ii.1.I.2.g |
| To relocate topic on developing claims for SC for asbestos-related diseases from old IV.ii.1.H.29. | IV.ii.1.I.3 |
| To remove old Block a related to considering the latent period and type of asbestos exposure as this guidance is already in the rating section at IV.ii.2.C. | IV.ii.1.I.3.a |
| To add a new Block a providing information on entitlement to SC for conditions based on exposure to asbestos. | IV.ii.1.I.3.a |
| To remove old Block b related to responsibilities of the rating activity as this guidance is already in the rating section at IV.ii.2.C. | IV.ii.1.I.3.b |
| * To relocate information from old IV.ii.1.H.29.c on development action to take when no disability related to asbestos exposure is claimed.
* To add guidance on using Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) and Modern Awards Processing – Development (MAP-D) to generate the applicable paragraphs to send to the Veteran.
 | IV.ii.1.I.3.b |
| * To add a new Block c providing guidance on use of the asbestos military occupational specialty (MOS) handout to determine probability of in-service asbestos exposure.
* To add a note providing that the MOS handout is not exclusive and exposure may be otherwise demonstrated.
 | IV.ii.1.I.3.c |
| To add a new Block d providing guidance on developing for evidence of in-service asbestos exposure in substantially complete claims. | IV.ii.1.I.3.d |
| To add a new Block e to provide information on consideration of all evidence in the claims folder in determining the probability of in-service asbestos exposure and types of records to be reviewed. | IV.ii.1.I.3.e |
| * To add a new Block f providing guidance on requesting an examination for claims based on asbestos exposure.
* To specify that if a Veteran has an MOS with a PROBABLE or HIGHLY PROBABLE indicator, it is not necessary to continue to develop for additional records to verify asbestos exposure and an examination with a medical opinion should be requested.
* To add guidance that an examination with medical opinion will be scheduled for an MOS with a MINIMAL or higher indicator of probability of asbestos exposure shown by the personnel records when development is required, but not for an MOS that doesn’t demonstrate at least a MINIMAL indicator of probability of asbestos exposure.
* To add guidance on use of the Examination Request Builder (ERB) in asbestos exposure examination requests.
 | IV.ii.1.I.3.f |
| To relocate topic on developing claims for SC for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) from old IV.ii.1.H.30. | IV.ii.1.I.4 |
| To relocate information on the definition of AIDS from old IV.ii.1.H.30.a. | IV.ii.1.I.4.a |
| To relocate information on the causative agent of AIDs from old IV.ii.1.H.30.b. | IV.ii.1.I.4.b |
| To relocate information on the tests available to verify AIDs from old IV.ii.1.H.30.c. | IV.ii.1.I.4.c |
| To relocate information on obtaining medical records showing treatment of AIDS from old IV.ii.1.H.30.d. | IV.ii.1.I.4.d |
| To relocate information on when to send the claim to the rating activity for claims based on AIDS from old IV.ii.1.H.30.e. | IV.ii.1.I.4.e |
| To relocate topic on developing claims based on participation in special operations incidents from old IV.ii.1.H.31. | IV.ii.1.I.5 |
| To relocate information on the definition of special operations from old IV.ii.1.H.31.a. | IV.ii.1.I.5.a |
| To relocate information on developing claims related to special operations incidents from IV.ii.1.H.31.b. | IV.ii.1.I.5.b |
| To relocate information on language to use for developing for information related to special operations incidents from IV.ii.1.H.31.c. | IV.ii.1.I.5.c |
| To relocate information on example of special operations forces incident document from old IV.ii.1.H.31.d. | IV.ii.1.I.5.d |
| To relocate information on responses from the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) from old IV.ii.1.H.31.e. | IV.ii.1.I.5.e |
| To relocate information on classified service records received from USSOCOM from old IV.ii.1.H.31.f. | IV.ii.1.I.5.f |
| To relocate topic on developing claims based on exposure to environmental hazards from old IV.ii.1.H.32. | IV.ii.1.I.6 |
| * To relocate information on locations of specific environmental hazards identified by Department of Defense (DoD) from old IV.ii.1.H.32.a.
* To add cross-reference to rating section for more information on specific environmental hazards and affected military installations at IV.ii.2.C.5.
 | IV.ii.1.I.6.a |
| * To relocate information on environmental hazard end product (EP) control and tracking from old IV.ii.1.H.32.b.
* To remove information on priority handling for Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) as the guidance contained therein no longer applies.
* To remove duplicate information on claims that don’t specify a disability and EP control, which has been incorporated in other blocks to include IV.ii.1.I.6.c.
 | IV.ii.1.I.6.b |
| * To relocate information on guidelines for developing environmental hazard claims from old IV.ii.1.H.32.c.
* To add cross reference for information on claims involving exposure to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune to III.iii.2.E.7.
* To remove invalid cross-reference to old IV.ii.1.H.32.j.
 | IV.ii.1.I.6.c |
| To relocate information on using DoD records to establish exposure to environmental hazards from old IV.ii.1.H.32.d. | IV.ii.1.I.6.d |
| * To relocate information on using alternate evidence to establish exposure to environmental hazards from old IV.ii.1.H.32.e.
* To remove duplicate information on types of alternate evidence and guidance on conceding exposure, which is already found at IV.ii.2.C.5.l and add a cross-reference to that section.
 | IV.ii.1.I.6.e |
| * To add a new Block f providing guidance on what to include in VA examination and/or medical opinion requests in environmental hazard claims.
* To add a cross-reference to IV.ii.2.C.5.l and m.
 | IV.ii.1.I.6.f |
| * To relocate information on centralized processing of Camp Lejeune claims and appeals to the Louisville Regional Office (RO) from old IV.ii.1.H.32.f.
* To remove exception indicating that Winston Salem and Salt Lake City ROs retain jurisdiction of Camp Lejeune claims associated with paperless claims folders since there is no longer retained jurisdiction.
 | IV.ii.1.I.6.g |
| To relocate information on actions taken by the office of original jurisdiction (OOJ) upon receipt of a Camp Lejeune claim or appeal from old IV.ii.1.H.32.g. | IV.ii.1.I.6.h |
| To relocate information on sample letter from the OOJ notifying the claimant of transfer of the Camp Lejeune claim from old IV.ii.1.H.32.h. | IV.ii.1.I.6.i |
| To relocate information on sample FLASH notice for Camp Lejeune claims folders from old IV.ii.1.H.32.i. | IV.ii.1.I.6.j |
| * To relocate information on actions taken by the Louisville RO upon receipt of a Camp Lejeune Claim or Appeal from old IV.ii.1.H.32.j.
* To revise information on the beginning date of exposure to 1953 as indicated in discussion with subject matter expert.
 | IV.ii.1.I.6.k |
| * To relocate information on verification of Camp Lejeune service from old IV.ii.1.H.32.k.
* To remove incorrect information on Personnel Information Exchange System (PIES) requests and add cross-reference to III.iii.2.E.7.
* To revise information on the beginning date of exposure to 1953 as indicated in discussion with subject matter expert.
 | IV.ii.1.I.6.l |
| To add a new topic to provide development guidance on claims based on participation in the Shipboard Hazards and Defense (SHAD) Project. | IV.ii.1.I.7 |
| To add a new Block a and provide information on the background of the SHAD Project. | IV.ii.1.I.7.a |
| To add a new Block b and provide guidance on identifying a SHAD claim. | IV.ii.1.I.7.b |
| To add a new Block c with information on EP control of SHAD claims. | IV.ii.1.I.7.c |
| To add a new Block d and provide guidance on requesting access to the U.S. DoD and VA Chemical Biological Warfare Exposure System (Chem-Bio) Database. | IV.ii.1.I.7.d |
| To add a new Block f and provide guidance on the action to take upon receipt of a final negative response from DoD regarding SHAD participation. | IV.ii.1.I.7.f |
| To add a new Block g providing the procedure to follow when the claimant is confirmed to be on the SHAD list and what information to include on examination requests. | IV.ii.1.I.7.g |
| To add a new topic providing information on developing claims based on Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) claims. | IV.ii.1.I.8 |
| To add a new Block a providing a definition of CBRNE claims. | IV.ii.1.I.8.a |
| To add a new Block b with guidance on the action to take when the Veteran claims exposure to CBRNE testing but does not claim a disability. | IV.ii.1.I.8.b |
| To add a new Block c with information on EP control procedures for claims based on CBRNE testing. | IV.ii.1.I.8.c |
| To add a new Block d with guidance on sending notification of entitlement to medical treatment at a VAMC for individuals claiming exposure as a CBRNE test participant. | IV.ii.1.I.8.d |
| To add a new Block e with information on use of the CBRNE Database. | IV.ii.1.I.8.e |
| To add a new Block f with guidance on the procedure to follow after attempting to verify participation in CBRNE testing. | IV.ii.1.I.8.f |
| To add a new Block g with guidance on completing the request to Compensation Service to verify participation in CBRNE testing. | IV.ii.1.I.8.g |
| To add a new Block h with information on where to schedule an examination for claims based on CBRNE testing. | IV.ii.1.I.8.h |
| To add a new Block i with guidance on what information to include in examination or medical opinion requests for claims based on CBRNE testing.  | IV.ii.1.I.8.i |
| To add a new Block j with information on the actions to take on the EP when a response from DoD is received. | IV.ii.1.I.8.j |
| To add Fact Sheet: Burn Pits in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa. | IV.ii.1.I.9 |
| To add Fact Sheet: Particulate Matter Throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. | IV.ii.1.I.10 |
| To add Fact Sheet: Sulfur Fire at the Mishraq State Sulfur Mine Near Mosul, Iraq. | IV.ii.1.I.11 |
| To add Fact Sheet: Qarmat Ali Water Treatment Plant in Basrah, Iraq. | IV.ii.1.I.12 |
| To add Fact Sheet: Naval Air Facility, Atsugi, Japan. | IV.ii.1.I.13 |
| To add Fact Sheet: Internet Websites Related to the Issue of Contaminated Water at Camp Lejeune. | IV.ii.1.I.14 |
| To add Fact Sheet: Diseases Potentially Associated With Exposure to Contaminants Present in the Camp Lejeune Water Supply Between 1957 and 1987. | IV.ii.1.I.15 |
| To add Fact Sheet: Internet Websites Describing Potential Health Effects of Exposure to Chemical Contaminants Present in the Water Supply of Camp Lejeune Between 1957 and 1987. | IV.ii.1.I.16 |
| * To add Fact Sheet: Notice to Examiners Evaluating Claims

Based on Service at Camp Lejeune.* To revise beginning date of exposure on Fact Sheet to 1953 in

consultation with subject matter expert on account of acknowledgement of benzene exposure dating to 1953. | IV.ii.1.I.17 |

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