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

**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 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 the term “veteran” to “Veteran”
* update obsolete terminology, where appropriate
* 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 delete language discussing action to take on various claims for compensation and to add references for various claim issues. | M21-1, Part IV, Subpart ii, Chapter 2, Section A, Topic 1, Block a (IV.ii.2.A.1.a) |
| To add a new block clarifying that the mere existence of records does not constitute a claim. | IV.ii.2.A.1.b |
| To relocate current block c to a new topic discussing actions to take upon receipt of unassociated or supplemental service treatment records (STRs) | IV.ii.2.A.1.c |
| To add a new block clarifying that a claim mentioning exposure but not specifying a disability is not substantially complete. | IV.ii.2.A.1.c |
| To relocate current block d to a new topic discussing actions taken by the rating activity upon receipt of unassociated or supplemental STRs. | IV.ii.2.A.1.d |
| To add a new block clarifying actions to take when abnormal lab findings are discovered in STRs without a claim. | IV.ii.2.A.1.d |
| To relocate current block e to a new topic discussing actions taken by the rating activity upon receipt of unassociated or supplemental STRs | IV.ii.2.A.1.e |
| To add a new block clarifying actions to take when fractures are discovered in STRs without a claim. | IV.ii.2.A.1.e |
| To add a new topic clarifying actions to take when unassociated or supplemental STRs are received. | IV.ii.2.A.2 |
| To add a new block providing information on initial review of unassociated or supplemental STRs by the Intake Processing Center (IPC) Veterans Service Representative (VSR). | IV.ii.2.A.2.a |
| To add a new block providing information on consideration of unassociated or supplemental STRs by the rating activity. | IV.ii.2.A.2.b |
| To add a new block providing information on notifying the Veteran of a rating decision based on unassociated or supplemental STRs. | IV.ii.2.A.2.c |

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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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