#### Department of Veterans Affairs M21-1, Part IX, Subpart i

**Veterans Benefits Administration May 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 IX, “Ancillary and Special Benefits,” Subpart i, “Ancillary Benefits.”  ***Notes***:   * 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 * renumber each topic based on the standard that the first topic in each section is Topic 1, and * bring the document into conformance with M21-1 standards. |

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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| * To add *VA Form 21-526EZ,* *Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits,* to the list of application forms that (together with a *VA Form 28-1900, Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation,*) may a prompt a request for a memorandum rating for vocational rehabilitation purposes. * To add a note on proposed ratings prepared under the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) program. * To add references. | M21-1,Part IX, Subpart i, Chapter 1, Section B, Topic 1, Block a  (IX.i.1.B.1.a) |
| * To clarify the policy on requesting additional service treatment records in connection with a memorandum rating request. * To add a note on obtaining assistance from a Military Record Specialist or Military Services Coordinator. | IX.i.1.B.1.b |
| To specify a parallel policy, where there is an electronic claims folder (eFolder), for scanning and return of paper service treatment records (STRs) or other paper medical records. | IX.i.1.B.2.d |
| To clarify that the policy stated in the note is an exception to the general requirement for a memorandum rating specified in the block. | IX.i.1.B.3.a |
| To add a table on forwarding the memorandum rating decision to VR&E when there is a paper claims folder vs. an eFolder | IX.i.1.B.3.d |
| To add a table on steps to take to ensure timely notification to VR&E when the Veterans Service Center (VSC) completes a rating decision that reduces or severs a service connected disability. | IX.i.1.B.3.g |

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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, Director  Compensation Service |

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