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

**Veterans Benefits Administration July 15, 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***: Minor editorial changes have been made to   * update incorrect or obsolete references * update obsolete terminology, where appropriate * 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 clarify the basis for the applicability of the statutory and regulatory language on benefits to service members. | M21-1, Part IX, Subpart i, Chapter 3, Topic 1, Block a (IX.i.3.1.a) |
| * To include a discussion that the use of a prosthesis is eligible for entitlement to specially adapted housing (SAH). * To include a discussion that entitlement to individual unemployability satisfies the requirement for a total service-connected disability for SAH eligibility. | IX.i.3.1.b |
| To reflect that temporary SAH requirements have been extended through the end of Fiscal Year 2015. | IX.i.3.1.f |
| To clarify the block content by adding a table that describes the relative responsibilities of the Veterans Service Center (VSC) and the regional loan center (RLC) in determining SAH/special home adaptation (SHA) eligibility and entitlement and by adding references. | IX.i.3.2.a |
| To delete old Block b and relocate the content to Topic 3. | -- |
| * To incorporate the definition of determination of medical feasibility from old Block d . * To revise the block to clarify that the Veterans Health Administration is responsible for medical feasibility determinations and the VSC is not involved. | IX.i.3.2.b |
| To delete old Block d which is incorporated in new Block b. | -- |
| To delete old Block e as some material is obsolete and the remainder was relocated to Topic 3. | -- |
| To delete old Blocks a through f and completely rewrite Topic 3 to clarify processing of SAH and SHA issues by the VSC, incorporating material from old Topic 3 as well as material relocated from Topic 2. | IX.i.3.3 |
| To provide clear guidance on when the VSC will make a SAH/SHA basic eligibility determination. | IX.i.3.3.a |
| To discuss the VA form requirement for SAH/SHA. | IX.i.3.3.b |
| To discuss claims filed with the RLC on VA Form 26-4555. | IX.i.3.3.c |
| To discuss claims filed with the VSC on VA Form 26-4555 and the requirement for the VSC to send the form to the RLC, as an e-mail with information from the claim is no longer sufficient. | IX.i.3.3.d |
| To discuss claims filed with the VSC on another valid VA form. | IX.i.3.3.e |
| To discuss handing the subordinate issue of basic eligibility to SAH/SHA raised by the record based on the disposition of another issue. | IX.i.3.3.f |
| To create a new Block g on the process of a VSC SAH/SHA basic eligibility determination based on guidance previously located in various blocks of Topic 2 and old Topic 3. | IX.i.3.3.g |
| To create a new Block h discussing further processing by the RLC after a VSC basic eligibility determination. | IX.i.3.3.h |
| To delete old Topic 4 on notification of medical infeasibility as this information does not pertain to VSCs. | -- |
| To revise to reflect that VSC handling of appeals, other than appeals regarding basic eligibility, should be limited to forwarding any received appeal doucments to the RLC. | IX.i.3.5.a |
| To delete old Block b as material is obsolete or incorporated in Block a. | -- |

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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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