

Compensation Service (212)
VBA/DoD Collaboration Team
Monthly Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)
Conference Call Read Ahead
April 10, 2018—2 PM EST

The Compensation Service VBA/DoD Collaboration Team hosts this monthly conference call to announce updates and address issues and questions related to the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) Program. All IDES Military Services Coordinators (MSCs), Disability Rating Activity Sites (DRAS) personnel and other VA personnel supporting IDES are invited to participate.

The following call notes summarize, expand upon, and provide any needed clarification of the topics addressed on the call or on the corresponding read-ahead. This document is not a verbatim recitation of the call or read-ahead. If you have specific questions related to claims, please send them to the [DES Mailbox](#) (VAVBAWAS/CO/DES). A Compensation Service team member will contact you to gather the additional information needed to review and respond to your case. If a pattern is established, and we note several intake sites are having issues, a Compensation Service team member will discuss the topic on the following month's call.

TMS #4447946 has been created to provide training credit for the April 2018 IDES Teleconference. In order to receive the credit, you must sign into TMS and self-assign the course. The evaluation must be completed in order to receive credit for today's call.

Please sign-up for the [C&P Calendar Subscription Service](#) in order to receive notification that the read-ahead is available and for notification when the TMS number is active.

Topics for Discussion

Exam Management System (EMS) in VBMS

Exam Management in VBMS was introduced in VBMS Release 14.1 (March 11th), and currently the only IDES exam provider supported by EMS is VES, which provides IDES examinations in OCONUS locations.

Please let us know of any issues or concerns you may have with this new process by emailing ContractExam.VBAVACO@va.gov and cc'ing the [DES Mailbox](#).

VBMS Contentions

MSCs are reminded to select the correct dropdown choices when completing the New Contention data fields ([M21-1, III.iii.1.F.2.c](#)). Entering the contention accurately allows VA to collect information on the nature of disabilities involved in Veterans' claims. The DRAS has seen a number of cases where the MSC is selecting the first choice in some of the dropdowns, when it has nothing to do with the contention; Ex: Contention is Lower Back Pain and the Classification selected was "Adhesions – Digestive" (which is the first selection in the dropdown).



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This is a data integrity issue, the incorrect choices are called non-critical errors by QRT and have to be corrected by the DRAS'.

Veterans Tracking Application (VTA) Reminders

Cases in VTA that Require New MSC Assigned

MSC Coaches are responsible for reassigning cases in VTA when the MSC assigned no longer supports IDES. The MSC coach should run the MSC Case Load Report which is located under IDES Reports, Operation Reports. This report shows the Assigned MSC and the Number of Active Cases. If the report shows Active Cases for an Assigned MSC that no longer supports IDES, those cases need to be re-assigned. To find the cases that require reassignment, run a User Defined Report using the following selections:

VTA Field Name	Column Options	Filter Options
Case ID	X	
Disenrollment Status	X	X
MSC Assigned	X	X
VA Regional Office	X	

Click Continue once all selections are made.

On next page (under filter options) select:

- Disenrollment Status: Enrollment Approved
- MSC Assigned: Select the MSC that is no longer supporting IDES

Click Run Report. The report generated will show the cases that need to be re-assigned.

VTA Training

VTA Training is April 17 (9ET) and 18 (1ET). Information is listed on the VTA Homepage under Calendar of Events.

Next Teleconference

The next IDES Teleconference Call is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at 2PM EST. Please submit questions and proposed topics for discussion to the [DES Mailbox](#) no later than COB, Thursday, April 26, 2018.



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Open Floor

Question: Is an MSC Conference being planned? If so, what are the dates and location?

CS: Yes, an MSC Conference is tentatively scheduled for the week of May 21; a second conference is tentatively scheduled for the week of June 18. It has not been determined yet whether these conferences will be in-person or virtual.

Question: How do MSCs register for the conference? Is it too late to register?

CS: MSCs will need to register for the conference once they have been selected. The Office of Field Operations (OFO) will coordinate with the District and Regional Offices to arrange MSC attendance. MSCs should receive notification and further information through those channels.



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