Monthly Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) and

Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) Conference Call

Compensation Service

BDD/IDES/Mil Pay Staff (212A)

June 11, 2019—2 PM ET

**Conference Call Notes**

The Compensation Service BDD/IDES/Mil Pay Staff hosts this monthly conference call to announce updates and address issues and questions related to the BDD and IDES Programs. All Military Services Coordinators (MSCs), Disability Rating Activity Sites (DRAS), Regional Offices and other VA personnel supporting BDD and IDES are invited to participate.

Prior to the conference call, a read-ahead was provided to facilitate discussion during the call. To receive notification when the read-ahead becomes available for upcoming calls, please sign up for the [C&P Calendar Subscription Service](http://vbacodmoint1.vba.va.gov/bl/21/calendar/cal_Subscribe.asp).

The Conference Call Notes below include the information that was provided on the original read-ahead, as well as a summary of the discussion that took place during the call. These notes may also expand upon and/or provide any needed clarification of the topics addressed on the call or in the read-ahead; as such, all call attendees are encouraged to review the call notes, with attention to the information in the shaded blocks, which has added to the original read-ahead.

TMS # 4518493 has been created to provide training credit for the June 2019 BDD/IDES Teleconference. To receive training credit, you must sign into TMS and self-assign the course.  The evaluation must be completed to receive credit.

Topics for Discussion

Contract Examination Exclusions List

The following four claim types have been removed from the Contract Examination Exclusions List:

* Initial claim for disability based on Gulf War undiagnosed illness (follow-up examinations may be ordered through contract examination providers)
* Examination is for a Veteran's dependent or survivor
* Veteran is deceased, and an opinion is required
* Veteran is claiming pension

If the Servicemember is claiming Gulf War undiagnosed illness or pension, these conditions can be examined by a VBA contractor. Questions should be directed to ContractExam.VBAVACO@va.gov.

ExamTrack not Showing Delivered Exams by MTF

A recent VBMS release removed the ability for MSCs to search for exams by MTF. The issue is being worked, but in the meantime, the only way to search for exams is by the Servicemembers SS#. We realize this is time consuming and hope to have the issue resolved soon.

**Exam Request Builder (version 4.5)**

A new version of [Exam Request Builder](http://vbacoweb02.vba.va.gov/bl/21/sitevisit/erb/ERB.asp) has been published on the [Job Aids page](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/21/rating/rat00.htm). This new version has the following change.

* Language related to *Sharp v. Shulkin*, 29 Vet.App. 26 (2017) was added to the examination request wording for the Temporomandibular Disorders DBQ.
* A bug that allowed empty values for RAD date when Special Priority was set to BDD was fixed.

Please be sure to always launch the Exam Request Builder from the [Rating Job Aids page](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/21/rating/rat00.htm) to insure you have the current version.

**Intake Sites not showing in EMS**

Recently, it was brought to our attention that the intake site data in VBMS is not being transferred to EMS for Pre-Discharge exams. Without this information, MSCs will not be able to run batch reports or download batch documents from the vendor portals. A recent VBMS update contributed to this issue; however, the VBMS team has been notified and is actively working to correct the issue.

Until the issue is resolved, MSCs will have to search and track each case individually. We realize this process is labor intense and time consuming, however, without proper tracking, notification letters, no shows, and other valuable information regarding the Servicemembers exams could cause delays.

**BDD In-Service Ratings when Servicemember referred to IDES**

We were informed that some BDD claims have not been administratively denied when the Servicemember was referred into the IDES process. Per [M21-1 III.i.2.D.8.c](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000033257/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-i-Chapter-2-Section-D-Overview-of-the-Integrated-Disability-Evaluation-System-IDES-and-Initial-Claims-Development#8c), the MSC is required to establish a 689 EP and notify the Station of Jurisdiction (SOJ) that the BDD claim needs to be administratively denied, because the Servicemember is no longer eligible for BDD due to no known discharge date. However, these actions are not being taken. On the most recent case, the BDD claim was rated. The Servicemember is still on active duty and asking us what to do now that she is going to start receiving benefits. If you have encountered this issue as well, please let us know today on the call or contact us at the [Pre-Discharge mailbox](mailto:VAVBAWAS/CO/PREDISCHARGE%20%3cPredischarge.VBACO@va.gov%3e).

IDES Specific Topics

**Dependency Claims from IDES Participants and Required Use of EP 130**

Typically, dependency issues raised as part of IDES claims will be controlled under the EP 689 (with all claimed dependents listed as contentions under the 689). However, if an IDES participant is a Veteran, with a running VA award and a combined disability rating of at least 30 percent—the dependency issue must be controlled by a separate EP 130.

When Veterans with a combined disability rating of at least 30 percent (including those participating in IDES) submit dependency claims, VA will act to address the dependency claim, without delay for resolution of any other pending claims/issues. As such, MSCs must consider any current VA combined disability rating when processing dependency applications from Veterans with running VA awards.

If an IDES participant who a combined disability rating of at least 30 percent, submits a substantially complete VA Form 21-686c (and/or VA Form 21-674, if applicable), the MSC must:

* ensure all dependency related documents have been uploaded into the Veteran’s eFolder or have been shipped to the scanning vendor.
* establish an EP 130, using:
  + the date the VAF 21-686c (or VAF 21-674) was received as the date of claim, and
  + a standard (non-IDES) dependency claim label, and
* list the claimed dependents as contentions under the EP 130 (not under the EP 689).

MSC should encourage participants to complete dependency applications in their entirety (and w, advise of the need for additional dependency documentation). The MSC must always accept any evidence related to a dependency claim, and ensure the evidence is promptly associated with the participant’s eFolder; otherwise, MSCs will take no action on the pending EP 130; NWQ will route the EP 130 for action as appropriate.

The DRAS must continue to include dependents on IDES awards whenever dependency requirements are satisfied by the information of record. If for any reason, an EP 130 is still pending at the time of the IDES award action, the DRAS must request and resolve the EP 130 unless additional information is needed to establish the claimed dependent(s).

***Important*:** An EP 130 should **not** be established when:

* the participant has a combined rating of less than 30 percent, and/or
* the participant is on active duty, without regard to any current disability rate (as any VA payment should be suspended).

In these instances, dependency issues should be controlled under the EP 689 and addressed within the IDES rating award action.

**Claim Status of EP 689 when Brokering**

During the May IDES/BDD Teleconference a question was raised about the need to update the claim status of the EP 689 when the claim is brokered to DRAS. At this time there, MSCs are not required to update the status of this EP.

Providence DRAS indicated that if the MSC has the ability to update the status to RFD (i.e., the 689 is in the MSC’s work queue, and they are already using *Complete Work Item* to send the 689) tit would be appreciated if the MSC was to update the claim status to *Ready for Decision (RFD)* when brokering cases to Providence.

However, MSCs must **not** change the claim status of the 689 to RFD in any Army case as doing so may disrupt processes currently in place at Seattle DRAS. All 689s brokered to Seattle DRAS must be left open (or in Ready to Work status).

**Closing Exam Tracked Items in VBMS**

MSCs are reminded of the need to enter tracked items for exams requested outside of VBMS Exam management. In these instances, MSCs must enter a tracked item, for each type of examination (i.e., the SHA, and any required specialty exam). Further, these tracked items must be closed out to reflect the date that each specific examination was returned from VHA. It would not be appropriate to close out these tracked items simply using the date that the last examination is returned (as done in VTA). These tracked items in VBMS are not equivalent to the Exam Returned Dates entered in to VTA. VTA data captures only the time it takes for a provider to return *all* the exams that were requested from that provider; whereas the tracked items in VBMS are tracking the time it takes to return each requested exam individually.

**Indicating Required Specialist Examination in CAPRI Requests**

MSCs must request specialist exams as required by [M21-1 III.i.2.D.6.c](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000033257/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-i-Chapter-2-Section-D-Overview-of-the-Integrated-Disability-Evaluation-System-IDES-and-Initial-Claims-Development) and [M21-1 III.iv.3.A.6](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000015809/M21-1,-Part-III,-Subpart-iv,-Chapter-3,-Section-A---Examination-Requests-Overview). In exams requested from VHA via CAPRI, MSCs must indicate the SHA and any required specialist exams by selecting the specific DBQs needed from the *List of Exams* dropdown shown on the *Add New C&P Exam* Screen in CAPRI. See section 2.2.3 of the [CAPRI User Manual](https://www.va.gov/vdl/documents/Financial_Admin/CAPRI/DVBA_27_209_UM.pdf) for further details.

If an MSC inadvertently clicks submit without selecting all required exams, the MSC can add the DBQ to the request (provided that the exam is still pending and has not yet been scheduled) using the *Add Exam to Request* Button on the *View C&P Exam* Screen by selecting the required exams from List of Exams Dropdown. See section 2.2.1 (Step 4) of the [CAPRI User Manual](https://www.va.gov/vdl/documents/Financial_Admin/CAPRI/DVBA_27_209_UM.pdf) for further details.

In all cases, all specialist exams and SHA must be selectedfrom the options shown in CAPRI. It is not sufficient to indicate the need for these exams in the remarks section of the request. When the necessary exams are not properly indicated in CAPRI (as described above) the request is likely to be unnoticed, resulting in scheduling delays, and this may require Servicemembers to report to examinations over multiple days, when all necessary exams could have been completed in a single day had the request been submitted properly.

**Providing Required Contact Information in CAPRI Requests**

MSCs are reminded of the requirement ([M21-1 III.i.2.D.6.h](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000033257/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-i-Chapter-2-Section-D-Overview-of-the-Integrated-Disability-Evaluation-System-IDES-and-Initial-Claims-Development)) to provide their contact information (name, title, complete mailing address, phone and fax number, and e-mail address), as well as that of the PEBLO assigned, in the remarks of any exam request submitted to VHA.

In requests submitted via EMS, the system will prompt users for these details. However, in requests submitted via CAPRI, MSCs must remember to provide this information in the remarks section of the request.

#### Receiving Electronic Documents from PEBLOs and/or IDES Participants

#### MSCs are reminded that digitally received forms should not be printed out, dated and re-scanned to load into VBMS. See [M21-1, lll.i.2.D.3.e](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000033257/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-i-Chapter-2-Section-D-Overview-of-the-Integrated-Disability-Evaluation-System-IDES-and-Initial-Claims-Development?query=ides#3d) (Uploading Electronic Documents to the eFolder).

Current IDES Program Timeliness

As outreach specialists and VA’s frontline contact with SMs and Veterans, it is vital that we are realistic in our communications regarding claims processing times. Below is the current program timeliness data (ADC) as of June 4, 2019.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **May 2019** | **IDES** |
| **Claim Dev (AD/NAD)** | **5/18** |
| **Exams to PEBLO** | **4** |
| **Medical Stage** | **44** |
| **Proposed Ratings (AD/NAD)** | **45/49** |
| **Recon Ratings** | **10** |
| **Exit Interviews** | **9** |
| **Final Ratings (AD)** | **41** |

**Source:** VTA Completed Reports June 4, 2019 (9am ET)

**Deferment Status Check**

MSCs and DRAS personnel are reminded to check the deferment status for each case in VTA before processing. The Case Deferment function is intended to capture elapsed time for cases that cannot move forward in IDES due to external delays lasting a minimum of 30 days. Data should not be entered into cases that are in deferment. If you feel data input is required while the case is in deferment, contact the [IDES Mailbox](mailto:VAVBAWAS/CO/IDES%20%3cIDES.VBACO@VA.GOV%3e).

**IDES Servicemember Satisfaction Survey Report (October 2018 to March 2019)**

Each quarter, the Defense Health Agency (DHA) provides reports on Servicemember satisfaction with the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES). Data for each report spans the preceding six-month period. For this report, data was collected between October 2018 and March 2019. Servicemembers in IDES completed 5,917 surveys by web-based and telephonic data collection methods. Thirty-nine percent of Servicemembers invited responded to the survey.

During the six-month period, 93% of survey respondents expressed overall satisfaction with the IDES process. Active and Reserve component Servicemembers overall satisfaction rates were 95% and 89%, respectively. This rate continues to exceed the DoD and VA goal of 80%.

* **Satisfaction with VA MSCs**

The report summarized Servicemember feedback on their satisfaction with the MEB and PEB Phases of the IDES process. In the MEB Phase, Servicemembers indicated 89% satisfaction with MSC customer service. MSCs are commended for their dedicated service. Thank you for your exceptional service to our wounded, ill and injured Servicemembers!

A few recommendations included:

* Provide Servicemembers with an opportunity to discuss all of their conditions and, as necessary, provide a thorough explanation of why certain conditions may not be evaluated as potentially unfitting during the IDES process.
* Throughout the process, provide Servicemembers with realistic estimates of the time needed to complete each stage based on current timeliness performance.

The complete [IDES Servicemember Satisfaction Survey Report](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/VBADOD/docs/IDES/IDESServiceMemberSurveyFY2018Q2.PDF) is posted on the [IDES Homepage](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/vbadod/IDES.asp).

VTA Reminders

### VTA Access

### Access to VTA is scheduled to move from the Veterans Information Portal to AccessVA on June 19, 2019. Other than going through AccessVA, the procedure is the same (PIV and Pin). New instructions will be provided via an email from OFO and posted on VTA.

**VTA Version 2.4.3**

### VTA v.2.4.3 was released on June 9, 2019. A complete list of changes/updates is in Appendix 1. VA specific items are highlighted in yellow.

### VTA Training

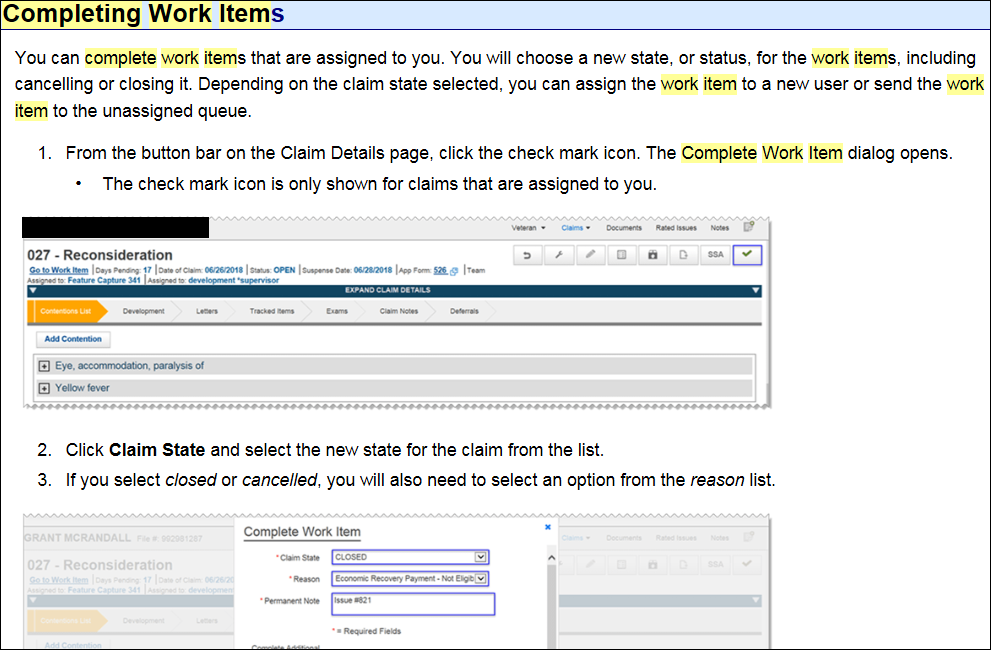
The live VTA Training that occurs on the third Tuesday and Wednesday of each month has ended. An on-line course has been created at <https://jkodirect.jten.mil/Atlas2/page/login/Login.jsf>. The course number is US426.

BDD Specific Topics

**Routing In-Service Ratings for BDD Claims**

In-service rating decisions are routed by NWQ the day following discharge (which should also be the date of claim in VBMS) for award action. We have received several inquiries from the field regarding BDD claims being prematurely routed to ROs. Premature routing is a result of the claim being in the incorrect life cycle and or having an incorrect DOC (should be RAD+1). For the claim to be properly routed when the only pending action left is promulgation, the lifecycle must show Awaiting Award and the DOC must show RAD +1. This lifecycle is automatically generated upon completion of the rating decision. Placing a tracked item after the rating decision has been completed (such as waiting for DD214/service verification) will place the claim back into development status which will result in premature routing. BDD claims processors are reminded to not create additional tracked items after the in-service rating decision has been completed. If a claim is received in error, check for the correct DOC and ensure the claim is placed back into the correct life cycle.

Below is further information from NWQ. In order to update the lifecycle, the user needs to complete the work item, see the screenshot below for reference.



**BDD Claims Establishment**

We have been informed by the Albuquerque RO that they have received BDD claims that were incorrectly established and were incorrectly developed. As a reminder, all claims meeting the BDD program requirements provided in [M21-1 III.i.2.A.1.d](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014099/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-i-Chapter-2-Section-A-General-Information-on-Pre-Discharge-Claims#1b) should be established as an EP 336 with a *BDD* claim label per [M21-1 III.i.2.A.2.c](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014099/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-i-Chapter-2-Section-A-General-Information-on-Pre-Discharge-Claims#1b).

The intake site must change the diary 336 EP to the proper EP and claim label as shown in the table below *after* all development actions have been taken per [M21-1 III.i.2.A.2.d](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014099/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-i-Chapter-2-Section-A-General-Information-on-Pre-Discharge-Claims#1b).

| **Claim Type** | **BDD EP - Claim Label** |
| --- | --- |
| Original | * *110 - BDD-Initial*, or * *010 - BDD-Initial 8+ issues* |
| * new SC * reopened, or * increased evaluation | *020 - BDD-Supplemental* |

***Note***:  If the diary 336 EP has matured to a pending EP (i.e. the suspense date of RAD+1 has been reached), the pending EP must also be changed to the proper EP and claim label in the table above.

Current BDD Program Timeliness

As outreach specialists and VA’s frontline contact with SMs and Veterans, it is vital that we are realistic in our communications regarding claims processing times. Below is the current program timeliness data as of June 5, 2019.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **June 5, 2019** | **BDD** |
| **Completed FYTD** | **7,380** |
| **Receipts FYTD** | **24,157** |
| **Pending** | **4,330** |
| **# Completed w/in 30 Days of Discharge** | **4,537** |
| **% Completed w/in 30 Days of Discharge** | **61.5%** |
| **Average Days Pending** | **75.1** |
| **Avg. Days to Complete FYTD** | **35.90** |

**Source:** Tableau BDD History Report and PA&I Daily Snapshot, June 6, 2019

### 

### From the Pre-Discharge BDD Mailbox

**Question:** For IDES Servicemembers who were returned to duty and are normally processing out, most of them end up falling under BDD Excluded due to having less than 90 days left on active duty. I know [M21-1 III.i.2.A.2.h](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014099/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-i-Chapter-2-Section-A-General-Information-on-Pre-Discharge-Claims) states to add the BDD-Excluded special issue to one contention requiring an exam, since these service members have already completed their exams would this still apply? The same reference states to select QS as the pre-discharge type for correct EMS routing, would this still apply, since no exams are being ordered as they are already complete?

**Answer:** To avoid any potential QR error, it would be safest to include the special issue since it is in the M21-1. We will submit a M21-1 change request to include this type of scenario.

**Question:** As long as we verbally inform the Servicemember their claim is BDD excluded and add a note to VBMS we do not have to issue them a BDD excluded letter?

**Answer:** Yes, as long as, the Servicemember is also told the reason(s) why they are excluded from BDD.

**Question:** Should Servicemember check the BDD or FDC box on the VA Form 21-526EZ if they are going to be BDD excluded?

**Answer:** The Servicemember can elect to be in any applicable VA claims program that they qualify for such as FDC.

Open Floor

Next Teleconferences

The next BDD/IDES Call is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 2PM ET. Please submit IDES questions and proposed topics for discussion to the [IDES Mailbox](mailto:VAVBAWAS/CO/IDES%20%3cIDES.VBACO@VA.GOV%3e), and BDD questions and proposed topics for discussion to the [Pre-Discharge BDD Mailbox](mailto:VAVBAWAS/CO/PREDISCHARGE%20%3cPredischarge.VBACO@va.gov%3e) no later than COB, Thursday, June 27, 2019.

The next BDD/IDES Coaches Call is scheduled for Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 2PM ET. Please submit IDES questions and proposed topics for discussion to the [IDES Mailbox](mailto:VAVBAWAS/CO/IDES%20%3cIDES.VBACO@VA.GOV%3e), and BDD questions and proposed topics for discussion to the [Pre-Discharge BDD Mailbox](mailto:VAVBAWAS/CO/PREDISCHARGE%20%3cPredischarge.VBACO@va.gov%3e) no later than COB, Thursday, June 27, 2019.

**Who is the SOJ if the case is in the NWQ?**

The SOJ is whichever RO the claim has been routed to by the NWQ. Once the claim is in the RO’s work queue, that RO is the SOJ until the claim is routed to another RO for action. The SOJ will show on the claim tab in VBMS where the claim has been routed. You can also look in the claim notes to see the RO # that did the in-service rating and the individual that rated the claim. If the claim is currently with NWQ, 499, then NWQ is the SOJ until it is routed to an RO.

**When is the next MSC conference?**

The next MSC conference is tentatively scheduled for Fiscal Year 2020. Office of Field Operations (OFO) and Compensation Service will notify MSCs and all personnel supporting IDES and BDD once additional information becomes available.

**Why did DRAS take out the claimed conditions & percentages verbiage on the BEL? We need that verbiage when we are conducting our exit interviews with service members.**

Compensation Service with approval from Office of General Counsel (OGC) reduced the content of the previous Benefits Estimate Letter (BEL). The intent for the new BEL is provide a shortened letter, and fact sheet which outlines additional benefits. The new BEL will also direct servicemembers to the proposed rating for more details. MSCs should be able to inform SM with information gathered from proposed rating, VTA, VBMS and any other information as required for exit interviews. [M21-1 III.i.2.E.5 Exit Interviews](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000046269/M21-1,-Part-III,-Subpart-i,-Chapter-2,-Section-E---Department-of-Veterans-Affairs-(VA)-Responsibilities-Based-on-Medical-Evaluation-Board-(MEB)-and-Physical-Evaluation-Board-(PEB)-Outcomes#5)

**What do we do when we get a claim that was CEST incorrectly? Does it need to be changed to the 336 then the 010 once exams have been ordered or does it not make a difference at that point?**

If exams have not been requested, establish an EP 336. Once the exams have been requested, the EP 336 must be changed to the appropriate rating EP with a BDD claim label. If the exams have already been requested when the claim is routed to the RO, change the incorrect EP to the appropriate rating EP with a BDD claim label.

**How do we handle dependency claims (EP 130) for BDD participants?**

If VA Form 21-686c is received with the BDD claim, dependents should be listed in VBMS at the time of claim establishment; however, an EP 130 should not be established. See guidance in [M21-1, III.iii.5.A.1.i.](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000015798/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-iii-Chapter-5-Section-A-General-Information-on-Relationship-and-Dependency)

Appendix 1.

**VTA 2.4.3: Change Requests**

CR821538: Upgrade generated reports to a more recent version of Excel; Phase I: MEB and MSC Reports

The export button on the MEB Pending, MEB Completed, MSC Pending and MSC Completed reports will open the reports in a more recent version of Excel. The available buttons are revised to make their functionality clear: “Load Report to Browser”, “Generate Report and Export to Excel”, “Generate Report and Export to Word”, and “Print” which renders the report into a format printable from the browser.

CR883091: Modify Final Disposition edit rules on the PEBLO Tab

For all cases where the Service is Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard, the Final Disposition dropdown, Final Disposition Date, and DoD Percentage dropdown on the PEBLO tab are disabled unless the Servicemember’s IPEB Selection dropdown is set to “Concur with IPEB findings”. These fields on the PEB Admin tab are unaffected. If the Service is Air Force, this rule does not apply.

CR928928: Modify Disenrollment Extract

Modify all 3 disenrollment extracts to include two new columns: 1) “Request DoD Research for Possible Disenrollment” and 2) “Request DoD Research for Possible Disenrollment Date”. The disenrollment extract will now include cases where the ‘Request DoD Research for Possible Disenrollment’ field on the DRAS tab has been checked.

CR933522: Update District Names on MSC Tab and Reports

The VA District Office options, as displayed on the VA(MSC) tab of an IDES case, and in the VTA User account page, have been modified. Previously, there were 5 options: Continental, Midwest, Northeast, Pacific and Southeast. The option “Midwest” has been deprecated and is no longer associated with any VA Regional Office options.

CR945140: Modify the location of the ‘Pending CEST’ report on the MSC Pending Reports dropdown

The “Pending CEST” report has been moved from its previous menu location, and now appears on the MSC Pending Reports menu after the “Pending Interview” report.

CR 949764: New auto-generated email to the MSC

For cases where the Exam End Date is populated, and the Medical Evaluation End Date is blank, an email is generated to the MSC on the 5th day after the Exam End Date, and every 5 days thereafter while the Medical Evaluation End Date remains blank.

CR952995: Disenrollment Category Revision

The available disenrollment reasons have been simplified to reduce the complexity of the disenrollment process. The top-level disenrollment reasons have been reduced to 3 options, and there is now only one additional level of disenrollment reasons from which to choose. Cases previously disenrolled have had their reasons updated to show the new categories and associated sub-category reasons.

CR953002: Remove the “Pending IPEB Status” report from VTA

The “PEB Pending Reports -- Pending IPEB Status” report is no longer available in VTA.

CR970215: Modify the Pending and Completed Exam Review Corrections reports

A new “Exam Provider” column is added to both the “DRAS Pending -- Pending Exam Review Corrections” and “DRAS Completed -- Completed Exam Review Corrections” reports. This column appears to the left of the “Exam Facility” column in both reports.

CR975272: 508 Compliance Corrections

To bring VTA into 508 compliance, various interface changes have been made, which include changes to background colors, font colors and styles, and tabbing order (ability to navigate in an orderly fashion using the tab key). A column has been added to the Case Search page to indicate the enrollment status of a Case.

CR980319: Updates to definitions on the MSC and DRAS tabs

On the VA(MSC) tab, the definition for the field “Medical Evaluation End Date” is now “Date complete medical evaluation report is delivered or made available to PEBLO”. On the RO/Rating tab, the definition for fields C&P Exam Review 'Date Corrected VA Exam Requested' and 'Date Clarification Requested' now reads: "Date the request for corrective action entered into CAPRI or EMS."

CR981104: Updates to the C&P Exam Review provider lists

The list of exam providers found in the exam provider dropdown in the C&P Exam Review popup box has been modified. Two new options, “VES” and “QTC” have been added. “VBA Contract” will be removed from the list for new records. Where VBA Contract was the selected provider in existing records, a script has evaluated the Case data and under most circumstances, has made the appropriate translation to either VES or QTC. VBA Contract does continue to display for cases where this update could not be made.

CR983525: Defect correction – Unresolved Cases Report

Users will now be able to export the “Unresolved Cases” report to Excel when Case links are disabled due to permissions.

CR983552: Defect correction – changing an RVSR affects opening a case

VTA RVSR users are assigned to DRAS locations on the user account page. In an IDES case, selecting a DRAS location determines the list of RVSRs to display, based on the user’s account DRAS assignment. For cases where that user had been saved as the RVSR, if the user account DRAS location was changed, the case was no longer opening. This has been changed so that the user continues to display as the saved RVSR for the case, and the case continues to successfully open.

CR950763: IDES Cases without VA Claims

• A new system-generated email will be produced: “Servicemember Not Filing a VA Claim: Sent to the PEBLO when the Medical Evaluation Start Date is entered, and the Number of Claimed Conditions is set to “0”.

• On the RO/Rating Activity tab, an entry to the “Declined to File Letter Date” disables the “VA Benefits Date” field. Likewise, an entry to the “VA Benefits Date” disables the “Declined to File Letter Date”.

• A case will follow the “Non-Active Duty” requirements for automatic disenrollment, if the “Number of Claimed Conditions” = 0 and the “Declined to File Letter Date” has an entry. In this situation, the “VA Benefits Date” is not a required field for auto-disenrollment.

• On the VA(MSC) tab, a new popup appears when the “Number of Claimed Conditions” is set to “0”, asking the user to confirm the Servicemember’s decision to not file a VA claim.

• On the RO/Rating Activity tab, a new popup appears when the “Number of Claimed Conditions” is set to “0”, and the DRAS enters a Proposed Rating Start Date or a Proposed Rating End Date, asking the user to confirm the Servicemember’s decision to not file a VA claim.

CR987045: IDES Cases Filing VA Claims

• The “Total Claimed Conditions” field has been changed to “Number of Claimed Conditions”. The list of options for this field now includes a zero. The definition for this field has been changed. The SHA Exam Requested Date field has been changed to be disabled until this field has a value entered.

• The “Total Referred/Claimed Conditions” field is removed from the case, as well as from any reports, including the User Defined Reporting interface.

• The “SM Filing VA Claim” is removed from the VA(MSC) and RO/Rating tabs and no longer functions as a rule in any IDES MSC reports. The column header for this field on the Weekly Extract has been renamed to indicate the field is deprecated.

• A new field, “Declined to File Letter Date” is added to the RO/Rating tab, appearing to the right of the “Combined Degree for all Conditions” field. This field is also added to the extract, and to User Defined Reporting.

• When the DRAS makes an entry to the “Declined to File Letter Date” and the “Number of Claimed Conditions” has been set to a value greater than “0”, a popup appears asking for confirmation that the SM has declined to file a VA Claim.

• The Pending Final Decision report (DRAS Pending Reports) has a new rule: cases where the “Declined to File Letter Date” has a value are excluded from the report.