Compensation Service Quality Call August 2021

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 Welcome to the August 2021 compensation service quality call. It is the last call of this fiscal year. My name is Bonnie Kirby the senior quality review specialist with our quality review team and quality assurance. We have a shorter agenda today, but definitely doesn't lack in importance. We will talk about what is new in trend I, M21-1. New presumptive conditions due to particulate matter exposure. We appreciate you asking questions. Specially adapted housing reminder go with the trend this year. And then one of our closing things will be display payments that are shown in VBMS-A.

 We will begin with Dustin thank you so much.

 Thank you Bonnie and hello everyone. This is Dustin Williams lead program analyst for procedures maintenance I will be providing you a final briefing on where we stand with our reorganization effort. In highlighting the remaining strides we hope to hit by the end of the fiscal year. Since the last time we spoke, procedures maintenance has partially completed the third of six planned phases of the M21-1 content reorganization. July 15, 2021 released a new M21-1 , the part is comprised of select content. Then more recently on July 29, we released new M21-1 special compensation issues which is comprised of select content previously located in M21-1 parts three and four, and all content previously located in M21-1, part six now reserve to accommodate content yet to be reorganized. The entirety of M21-1 content reorganization is expected to be completed by September 30, 2021. Still to come are releases of numerous parts on progressive delivery days, as outlined in the table below. Publishing the new part-time benefits administration and oversight on August 19, 2021. September 1 we will be putting out part nine on pension survivor's pension and pears dependency and indemnity compensation. September 15 looking to release for five of the rating process and also part for specific to exams. And rounding things out for the year on or around September 30 we will be issuing for three of the development process, and part one claimants rights and claims processing centers and programs. Keep in mind that all of the dates you see are proposed and could be subject to change. If the rumination progresses, we will continue to keep you apprised of all of the updates related in reorganization guide and put out the of the FY 21 reorganization God. The compensation and knowledge management landing page under the braking newsletter and be in the comps service bulletins and continue to get your separate weekly calendar announcements an email blast about the changes specific to reorganization. Back to the previous call, at that time I provided them a of these reorganization resources and tools to model how they work I feel were practically navigating. If you need a refresher, I recommend taking a fresh look at the demonstration but I thought today's final discussion post an opportunity to issue a couple of reminders about the importance of those resource materials. My first blog is for our FY 21 reorganization announcements article that can be found on the landing page. You have a hyperlink to this in your associated quality [ Indiscernible ]. This article is updated with each days of organization implementation, and as you can see, selecting it is going to give you some very useful information about what reorganization transpired thus far, and also what new developments are soon to come. My last reminders about the critical importance of use of the rehabilitation matrix which can be found in the M21-1 guide and that is also included. We find a comprehensive account of all M21-1 reorganized today in a sending order. With clear identification of where the procedures have been in the new landscape that I am sure you found it to be a lifesaver. Let's say we mistakenly venture over to general information. A lot of reserve realist date for feature reorganization movements not so much our supplemental claim substance. We can navigate to the very bottom of the page and take a look at its reorganization attachments. Most notably key changes document to get a very clear idea of where exactly the content we are seeking is moved. The key changes attachment is where you would go to get the most robust account of the new documents. We can also make easy use of our reorganization matrix found in the FY 21 reorganization guide. If we go there, and we simply control us to search the page, we can find that content we are looking for is now in part two subpart three chapter 2 section the. That will conclude my portion of the call to I appreciate you hanging with me. Thank you. Next we will hear from Abigail to tell us about particulate matter presumptive's.

 Thank you. My name is Abigail and IMA management analyst on the legislative staff of policy and procedures. I'm going to Glover information regarding the new presumptive conditions due to particulate matter exposure. On August 20 21 Internet final rule was published in the Federal Register to men 38 CFR 3.159 and at 38 CFR 2.3 Todo. The IFR establishes a presumption of service connection based on exposure to find, particulate matter and the manifestation of chronic asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis to include rhinosinusitis. Exposure to particular matter may be conceded with qualifying service which means appeared of active military naval air service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990 are in Afghanistan Syria the Djibouti or speck a stand on or after September 19, 2001 during the Persian Gulf War. Some additional items to note there is no minimum time limit for the length of military deployment. The conditions may manifest to any degree of disability. The conditions must manifest within 10 years of separation for the last period of military service. I will give an example, let's say better deployed to a qualifying area 2004 and had a break in service. They realist from 2010 through 2014 with no deployment. As the manifest in 10 years for 2014 separation presumption service connection under 3.320 applies. Eligibility is still met even though there was no deployment. The intent of this will take the most literal double approach. To ensure the new presumptive conditions are properly addressed in the claim process, the relevant training course must be self assigned and completed. Additional information may be found in an anyone that one in part eight subpart two in part eight subpart 2K through C and in VBA letter 2021 20 2112 presumptive service connection for respiratory condition due to exposure to particular matter. The full version of the IFR is available to review all Federal Register's website. Added three new sections pertaining to exposure to fine particulate matter in part eight subpart, chapter 2. Please see the corresponding reference. Manual guide should be applied in concert with the principles of 38 CFR 3.320 in VBA letter 20 dashed 21 dashed 12 result of service correction for respiratory conditions due to exposure to particulate matter. With Akamai will turn things over to Bonnie Kirby.

 Thank you. As you know we've been talking about specially adapted housing and home adaptation pretty much this whole year some reminders and things that have come up. We have another reminder come up from the field I wanted to talk about that a little bit. Specially adapted housing eligibility. Public Law 116 through 154 amended the blindness criteria for entitlement to SAH. Permanent bilateral blindness 20/200 or less in the better eye with the use of a correcting lens. Not necessarily total. Effective August 8, 2020. The disability doesn't have to be totals or may not be 100 percent that the manual reference is the criteria for visual fields as well. This part isn't in the manual,, it is in the manual, it is not in the regulation yet. You will have to refer to the manual reference and then cite 38 CFR 2001 is the authority for grants. That may be the reason why it has been missed a few times lately. We just need to make sure we know the public laws there and check the manual, be able to grant it on the blindness basis alone. When you're including the applicable laws and regulations in your rating decisions for grants or denials, you can cite that 38 USC 2001 as the authority and that will cover your bases. Another reminder from last month call that especially housing may be granted if a special home adaptation has previously been granted. However, special home adaptation may not be granted if specially adapted housing has been granted and that is because it is the greater benefit and this is the one we are talking about with the blindness to keep that in mind. You can always refer to 3.8 or nine and 89 letter a for that information in the manual reference shown as well. Those cover the bases. Hopefully SHA and S HH have been helpful. I wanted to point out the blindness as a reminder. We will turn it over to Isabel.

 Thank you. I'm a consultant with the authorization and nonreading team and quality assurance. We will talk about the VBMS-A award effective dates and incorrect payment displays. VBMS-A awards generated may have had incorrect effective dates and rates determined system area. It was passed on July 27 and was generated after the date shall be correct. If the award was generated another day but not authorized until after July 27 of May still have an incorrect effective date for payment. The awards generated and were authorized on these days were reviewed by LSL MRO's by email July 30 to review and take necessary corrective action. While they may have Karen corrected this is reminder to pay attention to these details and not solely on the system. That's all I have.

 Thank you. It was a short call. Good information and I appreciate our presenters taking the time to do this. If you would like to present a topic, please just email out internal box. We are happy to work with you on a topic that would be pertinent to the field. If you just have a quality call topic, you can send it to us at our internal box. And you can also add me to it or I will be the one who responds. Unfortunate, in the meantime, I will be helping out and leading the call in any sort of topic suggestions and inquiries. You can find our bulletins on the homepage. You can also find the recordings and the PowerPoint slides in TMS and the VBA learning catalog. This was our last call of the fiscal year. The next one will be recorded in October. We hope to have a nice robust call. Please send us any suggestions in the meantime. And have a great and of the fiscal year. Thank you.

 Thank you Rachel presenters. You all sounded fantastic. I know that was short but hopefully everybody is happy about that. Great work, thank you.

 I was going green orange, I was sweating.

 I heard you perfectly.

 I am so glad it is over. I was so nervous. I was hoping my audio would not cut out.

 Abigail, you sounded amazing so thank you so much.

 I tend to talk fast. Especially when I am presenting. If it is too fast, I can be recorded.

 You sounded amazing.

 Thank you. We will see you soon.

 Happy fiscal new year.

 [ Laughter ]

 Cheers.

 Talk to you soon.

 Goodbye.

 [ event concluded ]