Compensation Service Pre-Discharge Staff host this call to announce updates, address issues and field questions related to Pre-Discharge Programs (BDD/IDES). All Military Services Coordinators (MSCs), Disability Rating Activity Sites (DRAS), Regional Offices and other VA personnel supporting Pre-Discharge Programs are invited to participate.

This Read-Ahead (R/A) is provided to facilitate discussion during the Conference Call.

Call Notes from the December 2023 Call are in Appendix 1. The TMS # for this month’s call will be provided during the call and will be active about a week after the call. A Calendar Blast will notify the field when the TMS # is active.

**Call-in Information (This is a one time invite for Jan 2024)**

Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MjAyOTBmODctMGM1ZC00ZDQ2LWFmMTAtZGM5ODg0NjkyYTVk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e95f1b23-abaf-45ee-821d-b7ab251ab3bf%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22a0338b5c-0526-4e13-9809-5d0ecc8cdeb8%22%7d)

Meeting ID: 247 214 052 605   
Passcode: HSms5f

[Download Teams](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/download-app) | [Join on the web](https://www.microsoft.com/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 872-701-0185,,373178908#](tel:+18727010185,,373178908# )   United States, Chicago

Phone Conference ID: 373 178 908#

Remember to mute your microphone and turn off your camera.

To ask a question after the call begins, please raise your hand (click the hand icon) or type it in the Teams Chat—**do not unmute to ask a question, comment, or respond to questions until called upon**. Once your question/comment is addressed, lower your hand (click the hand icon again). Scenario/Case Specific questions will not be answered on the call. Send an email with details to the appropriate staff email box. Ask questions about the topic(s) being discussed, all other questions should be asked during Open Floor.

Please sign–up for the [Calendar Subscriptions (va.gov)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fvbacoweba5.vba.va.gov%2Fbl%2F21%2FCalendar%2Fcal_Subscribe.asp&data=05%7C01%7C%7C21879ad3ed524078df7108dbb3930978%7Ce95f1b23abaf45ee821db7ab251ab3bf%7C0%7C0%7C638301216315397959%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=IblMTyApGDJdc7op5Ca6KMk320%2FdtSPPk7tkR9h7IvM%3D&reserved=0) to receive notification that the R/A is available and/or for notification when the TMS number is active.

General Topics for Discussion

**Call Rules and Expectations**

1. This call is provided by Compensation Service Pre-Discharge Programs to provide updates, address issues and field questions relevant to BDD and IDES policy and procedures. The Pre-Discharge Staff is committed to ensure MSCs and other field personnel have accurate and up-to-date information regarding BDD and IDES policy and procedures.
2. The call is being recording and transcribed for training purposes and will be posted in TMS.
3. You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional courteous manner to include refraining from inappropriate language and comments.
4. Pre-approval by our staff is required before any person provides guidance/updates/other info that is related to BDD or IDES.
5. Do not forward the invite to or invite non-VA employees.

**MSC SP Site Updates**

Coaches/Supervisors are reminded to update their ROs BDD and IDES info as needed (new/departed personnel, other) at [Pre-Discharge Programs MSC Info - Home (sharepoint.com)](https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VBA21C212/212d_msc_info/sitepages/home.aspx). There are several ROs that need to update their info. Updating this info is important and allows us to know the current Coaches and MSCs for questions/contact.

**CAPRI Enterprise Search Required Prior to Examination Request**

A CAPRI Enterprise Search must be completed prior to requesting the VA examination, per [M21-1, III.ii.1.A.2.d](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000014108/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-ii-Chapter-1-Section-A-Requesting-Evidence-From-Federal-Record-Custodians#2d), which states, “The RO must associate the recent and relevant records to the eFolder when

* + development action is first being taken on the claim, or
  + if no development action is necessary, before the routing the claim for rating activity review and consideration.”

[M21-1, IV.i.2.A.8.d](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000180498/M21-1-Part-IV-Subpart-i-Chapter-2-Section-A-Examination-Requests-Overview#8d) also mandates that the CAPRI Enterprise Search must be done prior to the examination request, “All pertinent evidence (to include service treatment records when their review is relevant to the underlying request), must be scanned into the eFolder prior to requesting any examination.”

BDD Reminders

**BDD Claims Brokering Reminder**

As directed in [M21-1, X.i.6.C.3.a](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000177951/M21-1-Part-X-Subpart-i-Chapter-6-Section-C-Division-of-Responsibilities-Benefits-Delivery-at-Discharge-BDD-and-BDD-Excluded-Claims#3), the ***SOJ*** is the RO where the BDD claim has been routed by NWQ for development or rating action. This includes all BDD claims received at the RO/SOJ. This station must complete all required development or rating action including initial development if not already completed.

**BDD claims must not be brokered.**

**BDD Claims Processors eSTRs Responsibilities**

The below guidance is available on the [Compensation Service Interim Guidance intranet site](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/21/rating/guidance.htm) and the [Pre-Discharge Programs intranet site](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/vbadod/predischarge.asp).

BDD claims processors should continue to follow these interim procedures for processing BDD claims.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| If | Then |
| Current period STRs were provided by the SM | * Request VA examinations as directed in [M21-1, X.i.6.C.1.b](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000177951/M21-1-Part-X-Subpart-i-Chapter-6-Section-C-Division-of-Responsibilities-Benefits-Delivery-at-Discharge-BDD-and-BDD-Excluded-Claims#1b) |
| Current period STRs were received via eSTR transfer | * Request VA examinations as directed in [M21-1, X.i.6.C.1.b](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000177951/M21-1-Part-X-Subpart-i-Chapter-6-Section-C-Division-of-Responsibilities-Benefits-Delivery-at-Discharge-BDD-and-BDD-Excluded-Claims#1b) |
| Current period STRs are not of record less than 15 days from the date the EP 336 was established | * Enter “Awaiting STR Auto Receipt” tracked item * Enter 15 days for “Tracked Item Suspense” |
| Current period STRs are NOT of record within 15 or more days from the date the EP 336 was established | * Develop for current period STRs per [M21-1, X.i.6.B.3.k](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000177950/M21-1-Part-X-Subpart-i-Chapter-6-Section-B-Benefits-Delivery-at-Discharge-BDD-and-Initial-Processing#3k) * Provide the SMs name, SS#, branch of service, and the date the EP was established to the Pre-Discharge Programs Mailbox (predischarge.vbaco@va.gov) with the subject line “eSTRs 15-day Transfer” * Upload a .pdf file of this email to the SMs VBMS eFolder |

**Notes:**

* If the SM provides a copy of their current period STR, request VA examinations per [M21-1, X.i.6.C.1.b](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000177951/M21-1-Part-X-Subpart-i-Chapter-6-Section-C-Division-of-Responsibilities-Benefits-Delivery-at-Discharge-BDD-and-BDD-Excluded-Claims#1b)
* The Separation Health Assessment Part A – Self-Assessment and current period STRs must be of record when an examination is ordered

**EP 336 Changes After Examination Request including Personal Assault and Military Sexual Trauma (MST)**

There have been MST/personal assault BDD PTSD claims where the EP 336 was changed to a rating EP prior to requesting examinations, which have resulted in long delays including not requesting the examinations. Per [M21-1, X.i.6.B.2.d](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000177950/M21-1-Part-X-Subpart-i-Chapter-6-Section-B-Benefits-Delivery-at-Discharge-BDD-and-Initial-Processing#2d), the EP 336 can only be changed to the appropriate rating EP after all development actions have been taken including requesting the examination.

All examinations for BDD claims must be requested within five days of claims documents being uploaded into VBMS per [M21-1, X.i.6.C.1.b](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000177951/M21-1-Part-X-Subpart-i-Chapter-6-Section-C-Division-of-Responsibilities-Benefits-Delivery-at-Discharge-BDD-and-BDD-Excluded-Claims#1b). Also, stressor statements including the [VA Form 21-0781, Statement in Support of Claim for Service Connection for Post-Traumatic Stress disorder (PTSD)](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0781-ARE.PDF), or the [VA Form 21-0781a, Statement in Support of Claim for Service Connection for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Secondary to Personal Assault](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0781a-ARE.pdf) are not required for BDD Personal Assault and MST PTSD claims per [M21-1, X.i.6.B.3.g](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000177950/M21-1-Part-X-Subpart-i-Chapter-6-Section-B-Benefits-Delivery-at-Discharge-BDD-and-Initial-Processing#3d).

IDES Reminders

Contacting the Pre-Discharge Staff

[IDES Mailbox](mailto:VAVBAWAS/CO/IDES%20%3cIDES.VBACO@VA.GOV%3e): For IDES or VTA policy/procedural questions.

[BDD Mailbox](mailto:VAVBAWAS/CO/PREDISCHARGE%20%3cPredischarge.VBACO@va.gov%3e): For BDD policy/procedural questions.

[VTA Mailbox](https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VBA21C212/212D/VDPO%20Monthly%20IDES%20Call/2024%20(CY)/January/VRST@vba.va.gov): For VTA technical issues.

Note: As stated above. all VTA technical issues should be sent to the VTA Mailbox. Do not call or submit a ticket thru the National Service Desk.

Veterans Tracking Application (VTA) Reminder

VTAs move to Salesforce

VTA moved to Salesforce (SF) on December 11 ([Home | Salesforce](https://va-vet.lightning.force.com/lightning/page/home)). We are working reported issues ASAP. Any unreported issues (details and screen shot)- should be sent to the [VTA Mailbox](https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VBA21C212/212D/VDPO%20Monthly%20IDES%20Call/2024%20(CY)/January/VRST@vba.va.gov).

VTA Homepage Announcement Section

VTA users are reminded and encouraged to look at the Announcements Section after signing in to see if anything new has been posted. There is no longer a pop-up informing user of new announcements.

Upcoming Conference Calls

The next BDD/IDES Call is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 13, 2024**, 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 [BDD Mailbox](mailto:VAVBAWAS/CO/PREDISCHARGE%20%3cPredischarge.VBACO@va.gov%3e) no later than close of business (COB), Wednesday December 20, 2023.

Note: A new invite will be sent for 2024. This call will continue to be on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2ET.

Open Floor

**Appendix 1: Call Notes from the December 2023 BDD/IDES Conference Call**

**Question**: Should we cancel the automated examination request if the BDD claim is received without the STRs and/or a completed SHA – Part A – Self-Assessment?

**Answer**: No, do not cancel the examination request if the claim meets all other BDD requirements as shown in [M21-1, X.i.6.B.1.a](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000177950/M21-1-Part-X-Subpart-i-Chapter-6-Section-B-Benefits-Delivery-at-Discharge-BDD-and-Initial-Processing#1), request the STRs and/or the SHA – Part A from the SM as directed on the [PDP Releases](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/VBADOD/releases.asp) intranet page.

**Question**: Will the automated system be able to recognize that a previous claim was submitted, and a rating decision was completed and establish an end product (EP) of 020 – BDD New or will it establish it as an EP 336?

**Answer**: The Office of Benefits Automation Delivery (ABD) is not establishing the BDD claim. All claims submitted on VA.gov are automatically established through VA.gov. All BDD claims are initially established as an EP 336, per [M21-1, X.i.6.B.2.c](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000177950/M21-1-Part-X-Subpart-i-Chapter-6-Section-B-Benefits-Delivery-at-Discharge-BDD-and-Initial-Processing#1), after all development actions have been taken, the EP 336 must be changed to the appropriate rating EP per [M21-1, X.i.6.B.2.d](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000177950/M21-1-Part-X-Subpart-i-Chapter-6-Section-B-Benefits-Delivery-at-Discharge-BDD-and-Initial-Processing#1).

**Question**: Sometimes the Examination Management System (EMS) will not save any updates to a drafted examination request including bookmarks and annotations unless you create a new examination request. What should we do if this occurs with automated examination requests?

**Answer**: We have been notified that the user can edit the examination request and add annotations, and these are being saved in EMS. If you cannot edit and annotate the drafted automated examination request, then, please send the claim number and details of the issue to the Office of Benefits Automation Delivery (ABD) at VAVBAWAS/CO/OBA, [oba.vbaco@va.gov](mailto:oba.vbaco@va.gov).

As indicated, ABD released draft examination functionality on December 18, 2023. However, automation has not yet identified a qualifying claim and no draft examination requests have been prepared to date.

To be considered a qualifying claim for draft examination automation, the STRs must be present in the eFolder at the time of the automated review. Due to a brief lag in the upload of evidence from VA.gov to the eFolder, the automated review is occurring before the STRs become available in the eFolder.

ABD is working to address the issue caused by the lag in evidence upload. Until the issue is resolved, no claims will qualify for draft examination request. In the interim, this issue will have no impact to any claim or the BDD claims process.

Further information will be shared as it becomes available.