(VSR VIP Post-D) Overview of Claim Types

Trainee Handout

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Objectives

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

* Identify the three types of initial claims and the end product (EP) codes associated with them
* Explain a claim for service connection based on aggravation or a secondary basis
* Describe supplemental claims
* Identify the forms required for a claim for individual unemployability (IU)
* Determine the forms and special issue indicators required for special issue claims for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Southwest Asia (SWA), and herbicide exposure

References

* [M21-1 I.1.A.4](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000013969/M21-1-Part-I-Chapter-1-Section-A-Description-and-General-Information-on-Duty-to-Notify-and-Duty-to-Assist) — Definitions: Initial Claim
* [M21-1 III.ii.2.B](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000014119/M21-1,-Part-III,-Subpart-ii,-Chapter-2,-Section-B---Claims-for-Disability-Compensation-and-or-Pension,--and-Claims-for-Survivors-Benefits) — Claims for Disability Compensation and/or Pension, and Claims for Survivors Benefits
* [M21-1 III.ii.2.D](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000014116/M21-1,-Part-III,-Subpart-ii,-Chapter-2,-Section-D---Supplemental-Claims) — Supplemental Claims
* [M21-1 III.ii.2.E](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000014121/M21-1,-Part-III,-Subpart-ii,-Chapter-2,-Section-E---Claims-for-Increase) — Claims for Increase
* [M21-1 IV.ii.1.D](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000014906/M21-1,-Part-IV,-Subpart-ii,-Chapter-1,-Section-D---Claims-for-Service-Connection-(SC)-for-Post-Traumatic-Stress-Disorder-(PTSD)) — Claims for Service Connection (SC) for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
* [M21-1 IV.ii.2.B](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000014553/M21-1,-Part-IV,-Subpart-ii,-Chapter-2,-Section-B---Determining-Service-Connection-(SC)) — Determining Service Connection
* [M21-1 IV.ii.2.C.3](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000014556/M21-1,-Part-IV,-Subpart-ii,-Chapter-2,-Section-C---Service-Connection-(SC)-for-Disabilities-Resulting-From-Exposure-to-Environmental-Hazards-or-Service-in-the-Republic-of-Vietnam-(RVN)) — SC for Disabilities Resulting from Exposure to Certain Herbicide Agents or Based on Service in RVN
* [M21-1 IV.ii.2.D.1](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000014557/M21-1,-Part-IV,-Subpart-ii,-Chapter-2,-Section-D---Service-Connection-(SC)-for-Qualifying-Disabilities-Associated-with-Service-in-Southwest-Asia) — General Information on Qualifying Disabilities Associated with Service in Southwest Asia
* [M21-1 IV.ii.2.F](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000014564/M21-1,-Part-IV,-Subpart-ii,-Chapter-2,-Section-F---Compensation-Based-on-Individual-Unemployability-(IU)) — Compensation Based on Individual Unemployability (IU)
* [M21-4 Appendix C](https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001018/content/554400000036570/Appendix%20C.%20Index%20of%20Claim%20Attributes) — Index of Claim Attributes

Job Aid

**Initial Claims**

* Original – First claim received by VA. Veteran can have only one original compensation claim.
  + EP 010, 8 or more contentions
  + EP 110, 7 or less contentions
  + Prescribed form, VA Form 21-526EZ
* New – Any new claim following the original claim
  + EP 020, number of contentions doesn’t matter
  + Prescribed form, VA Form 21-526EZ (Some exceptions apply)
* Increase – Claim for increase in an SC condition
  + EP 020
  + Prescribed form, VA Form 21-526EZ
* Secondary – Disability caused by a SC condition
* Aggravation – Increase in the severity of a non-SC condition caused by an SC condition beyond the normal progression of the disease
* Aggravation of pre-existing condition – Increase of the severity of the condition beyond the normal progression of the condition caused by military service

*Note*: Secondary or Aggravation claims can be EP 010, 110 or 020

**Supplemental Claims**

* Veteran disagrees with a decision by VA
* EP 040 applies to supplemental claims
  + Claim must be established in Caseflow
  + Prescribed form, VA Form 20-0995
  + Sequential EPs authorized, (041, 042, 043, etc.)

**Individual Unemployability and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder**

* Individual Unemployability (IU)
  + Establishes entitlement to a total disability rating (100%)
  + Prescribed form, VA Form 21-526EZ or VA Form 21-8940
  + VA Form 21-8940 required for RVSR to grant
  + VA Form 21-4192 develops for employment information
* Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
  + Prescribed form, VA Form 21-526EZ
  + If stressor cannot be confirmed by evidence of records
    - VA Form 21-0781
    - VA Form 21-0781a, used only when Veteran asserts personal trauma
  + Special Issue Indicators (SII)
    - PTSD – Combat
    - PTSD – Non-Combat
    - PTSD – Personal Trauma
    - Military Sexual Trauma
    - SII not required for claims for increase

**Claims for Presumptive Service Connection**

* Claims for SC that can be granted based on the conditions or location of a Veteran’s service
  + Gulf War (GW)
  + Herbicide Exposure
* GW Claims
  + Undiagnosed illness
  + Medically Unexplained Chronic Multi-Symptom Illness (MUCMI)
  + Certain infectious diseases
  + SIIs
    - Undiagnosed illness and MUCMI – Environmental Hazard in Gulf War
    - Infectious disease – Gulf War Presumptive
    - SII not required for claim for increase
* Herbicide Exposure (Agent Orange) Claims
  + Centralized processing for conceding qualified service
  + SIIs
    - Agent Orange – Outside Vietnam or unknown
    - Agent Orange – Vietnam
    - C-123
    - SII not required for claim for increase

Practical Exercise

Directions: Read the following questions and select the correct answer.

1. A Veteran submits a claim for disability compensation immediately following discharge. A review of the eFolder shows the Veteran has never filed a claim with VA prior to this claim. This is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ initial claim.
   1. Increase
   2. New
   3. Original
   4. Supplemental
2. Which of the following is the prescribed form for a supplemental claim?
   1. VA Form 20-0995
   2. VA Form 21-4192
   3. VA Form 21-526EZ
   4. VA Form 21-8940
3. As part of a claim for IU, VA will develop to the former employers of a Veteran to request information on their employment history. Which form is used to request this information?
   1. VA Form 21-0995
   2. VA Form 21-4192
   3. VA Form 21-526EZ
   4. VA Form 20-8940
4. A Veteran files an initial claim for increase for SC PTSD. Which SII is required on the claim?
   1. PTSD – Combat
   2. PTSD – Non-Combat
   3. PTSD – Personal Trauma
   4. SII is not required
5. An Air Force Veteran submits an initial new claim for SC of Type II diabetes based on herbicide exposure while stationed in Vietnam. A review of the Veteran’s eFolder reveals that he served as an aviation mechanic on C-123 aircraft and was stationed in Vietnam from January 1969 through February 1970. Which SII would be applied to the claim?
   1. Agent Orange – Outside Vietnam or unknown
   2. Agent Orange Vietnam
   3. C-123
   4. SII is not required
6. A Veteran submits a claim for 12 contentions. A review of the eFolder reveals the Veteran has never filed a claim with VA prior to this claim. What is the correct EP code for this claim?
   1. EP 010
   2. EP 020
   3. EP 110
   4. EP 130