**Training Reminder - 48 Month Rule Advisory**

September 21, 2016

**Effective immediately**, as per VBA leadership, Education Service should continue to consider Chapter 31 entitlement usage when determining available entitlement for other VA education benefit programs (32, 33, 35, 1606) in accordance with the manual references below:

M22-4, [Pt. V, 1.20d](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/22/ref/m22-4/Part%20V/ch01.htm#120d)  
M22-4, [Pt. VI, 1.08e](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/22/ref/m22-4/Part%20VI/ch01.htm#108e)   
M22-4, [Pt. VII, 1.06(a)(4)](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/22/ref/m22-4/Part%20VII/ch01.htm#106a4)  
M22-4, [Pt. VIII, 1.06a](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/22/ref/m22-4/Part%20VIII/ch01.htm#106)

Any draft documents (e.g., proposed procedures, instructions, etc.) shared with the field related to the 48-month rule and the liberal interpretation should be discarded and no longer be applied.

If you have any questions, please direct them to the Operations Team via email at [VAVBAWAS/CO/222A](mailto:VAVBAWAS/CO/222A).

V/R

Operations Team

Education Service

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**NOTE: An amendment was made to this advisory October 4, 2016. This amendment stated the following:**

Education Service would like to provide additional guidance pertaining to the Procedural Advisory released on September 21, 2016.

Per VBA leadership, Regional Processing Offices (RPOs) should not re-adjudicate claims previously processed based on any draft documents (e.g., proposed procedures, instructions, etc.) released to the field related to the 48-month rule and the liberal interpretation. RPOs should process claims point forward with the guidance provided below. The Department of Veteran Affairs will honor certificates of eligibility and awards processed under any past directive from Central Office.

If you have any questions, please direct them to the Operations Team via email at [VAVBAWAS/CO/222A](mailto:VAVBAWAS/CO/222A%20%3c222A.VBAVACO@va.gov%3e).