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| Gears | Purpose This Job Aid provides general instructions, information, and references for Appeals Modernization Act (AMA) Higher-Level Reviews (HLR) processing under PACT Act. (Public Law (PL) 117-168). |
| Meeting | Audience All claims processors responsible for processing AMA HLRs. |
| Books on shelf | References  * [PL 117-168 (PACT Act)](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/117/s3373/text) * [38 CFR 3.160 (d)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-38/chapter-I/part-3/subpart-A/subject-group-ECFR7629a1b1e9bf6f8/section-3.160) * [38 CFR 3.114(a)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-38/chapter-I/part-3/subpart-A/subject-group-ECFR63da83ba671b92b/section-3.114) * [M21-5, Chapter 5 – Higher Level Review Procedures](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000141004/M21-5,%20Chapter%205%20-%20Higher%20Level%20Review%20Procedures#5) * [PACT Act Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Training Purposes, Topic 8](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/21/PACT%20Act%20Implementation%20SOP%20For%20Training%20Purpose.pdf) |
| Checklist | Instructions Check and add, if needed, the ***PACT*** special issue to all PACT Act-related issues.  **Rating**   * When processing an HLR, address issues impacted by PACT Act as duty-to-assist (DTA) errors * Return for corrective action if service-connection for the PACT Act issues(s) cannot be granted on a direct basis.   + This applies if the prior rating decision was issued before the change in law and the decision maker was acting on appropriate guidance in place at that time. * Ensure the correct disposition is selected when returning the issue.   **Authorization**   * Clear the HLR end-product (EP) 030 in VBMS-A.   + If there is a DTA error, the EP 040 will be established in VBMS for further development for the PACT Act issue(s). |
| Lightbulb | Important Reminders  * Affix the ***PACT*** special issue on any PACT Act related contention. * Follow the guidance for use of Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record (ILER) found in the [ILER Guidance](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/21/ILER%20Guidance.pdf). * Review claims for non-presumptive disabilities to determine whether an explicit or implicit Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA) claim applies. * If the EP 040 DTA Error is not established in VBMS, open a [YourIT](https://yourit.va.gov/va) ticket to report the issue. |
| Pencil | Other Resources  * [PACT Act Information Page](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/21/pact.htm) * [PACT Act Pension and Fiduciary Service Information Page](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/pensionandfiduciary/pact-act.asp) * [PACT Act Implementation Training Resources](https://vbatraining.adobeconnect.com/pge1w0g4y2g4/) * [TERA Exception Job Aid](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/21/TERA%20Exception%20Job%20Aid.pdf) * [TMS 4626459, ILER (Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record)](https://va-hcm03.ns2cloud.com/learning/user/common/viewItemDetails.do?componentTypeID=VA&componentID=4626459&revisionDate=1653496500000&catalogCurrencyCode=USD&returnLink=%2Flearning%2Fuser%2Fcatalogsearch%2FcatalogSearchDispatchAction.do%3FsearchType%3DfilteredSearch%26keywords%3D&backto=%2Flearning%2Fuser%2Fcatalogsearch%2FcatalogSearchDispatchAction.do%3FsearchType%3DfilteredSearch%26keywords%3D) [TMS 4634424, Overview of the PACT Act](https://va-hcm03.ns2cloud.com/learning/user/common/viewItemDetails.do?componentTypeID=VA&componentID=4634424&revisionDate=1663354920000&catalogCurrencyCode=USD&returnLink=%2Flearning%2Fuser%2Fcatalogsearch%2FcatalogSearchDispatchAction.do%3FsearchType%3DfilteredSearch%26keywords%3D&backto=%2Flearning%2Fuser%2Fcatalogsearch%2FcatalogSearchDispatchAction.do%3FsearchType%3DfilteredSearch%26keywords%3D) * [TMS 4637064, PACT Act Implementation: Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)](https://va-hcm03.ns2cloud.com/learning/user/common/viewItemDetails.do?componentTypeID=VA&componentID=4637064&revisionDate=1669648320000&catalogCurrencyCode=USD&returnLink=%2Flearning%2Fuser%2Fcatalogsearch%2FcatalogSearchDispatchAction.do%3FsearchType%3DfilteredSearch%26keywords%3D&backto=%2Flearning%2Fuser%2Fcatalogsearch%2FcatalogSearchDispatchAction.do%3FsearchType%3DfilteredSearch%26keywords%3D) * [TMS 4637094, PACT Act Implementation Overview](https://va-hcm03.ns2cloud.com/learning/user/common/viewItemDetails.do?componentTypeID=VA&componentID=4637094&revisionDate=1669665180000&catalogCurrencyCode=USD&returnLink=%2Flearning%2Fuser%2Fcatalogsearch%2FcatalogSearchDispatchAction.do%3FsearchType%3DfilteredSearch%26keywords%3D&backto=%2Flearning%2Fuser%2Fcatalogsearch%2FcatalogSearchDispatchAction.do%3FsearchType%3DfilteredSearch%26keywords%3D) * [TMS 4637093, PACT Act Implementation: Radiation Exposure](https://va-hcm03.ns2cloud.com/learning/user/common/viewItemDetails.do?componentTypeID=VA&componentID=4637093&revisionDate=1669664820000&catalogCurrencyCode=USD&returnLink=%2Flearning%2Fuser%2Fcatalogsearch%2FcatalogSearchDispatchAction.do%3FsearchType%3DfilteredSearch%26keywords%3D&backto=%2Flearning%2Fuser%2Fcatalogsearch%2FcatalogSearchDispatchAction.do%3FsearchType%3DfilteredSearch%26keywords%3D) * [TMS 4637040, PACT Act Implementation: Herbicide Exposure Claims](https://va-hcm03.ns2cloud.com/learning/user/common/viewItemDetails.do?componentTypeID=VA&componentID=4637040&revisionDate=1669386660000&catalogCurrencyCode=USD&returnLink=%2Flearning%2Fuser%2Fcatalogsearch%2FcatalogSearchDispatchAction.do%3FsearchType%3DfilteredSearch%26keywords%3D&backto=%2Flearning%2Fuser%2Fcatalogsearch%2FcatalogSearchDispatchAction.do%3FsearchType%3DfilteredSearch%26keywords%3D) * [TMS 4637095, PACT Act Undiagnosed Illnesses and Medically Unexplained Chronic Multisymptom Illnesses (MUCMIs)](https://va-hcm03.ns2cloud.com/learning/user/common/viewItemDetails.do?componentTypeID=VA&componentID=4637095&revisionDate=1669665360000&catalogCurrencyCode=USD&returnLink=%2Flearning%2Fuser%2Fcatalogsearch%2FcatalogSearchDispatchAction.do%3FsearchType%3DfilteredSearch%26keywords%3D&backto=%2Flearning%2Fuser%2Fcatalogsearch%2FcatalogSearchDispatchAction.do%3FsearchType%3DfilteredSearch%26keywords%3D) * [TMS 4637096, PACT Act Implementation: Presumptive SC Based on Exposure to Burn Pits and Other Toxins, Including Fine Particulate Matter](https://va-hcm03.ns2cloud.com/learning/user/common/viewItemDetails.do?componentTypeID=VA&componentID=4637096&revisionDate=1669665660000&catalogCurrencyCode=USD&returnLink=%2Flearning%2Fuser%2Fcatalogsearch%2FcatalogSearchDispatchAction.do%3FsearchType%3DfilteredSearch%26keywords%3D&backto=%2Flearning%2Fuser%2Fcatalogsearch%2FcatalogSearchDispatchAction.do%3FsearchType%3DfilteredSearch%26keywords%3D) |