PENSION AND FIDUCIARY Service

PMC VSR Intermediate Core Course

Phase 5: Proficiency Development

Part 5: Award Adjustments

Determine Amended Income Adjustments

Appendix A

July 2024

Lesson 2 Prerequisites

| Learning Objectives | Lessons, Job Aids, and References |
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| Establish periods for calculating income  | * Phase 5, Part 1c: *Establish Periods for Calculating Income*
* **Initial Year** job aid
* **Income and Net Worth Status** job aid
* 38 CFR 3.400—3.404 (Effective Dates)
* 38 CFR 3.31 (Commencement of the period of payment)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.A.4. (Pension and Parents’ DIC Award Effective Dates and Payment Dates)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.A.5. (General Information on the Payment Date Under 38 CFR 3.31)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.A.3.g. (Definition of Initial Year for Pension and Time Limit for Establishing Entitlement for the Initial Year)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.H.1.b. (Time Limit to Furnish Amended Income Information to Increase the Rate)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.E.7.a. (Definition: Initial Year)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.H.1.c. (Definition: Same Calendar Year Under 38 CFR 3.660.b.1)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.G.4.q. (Overlapping Initial Year and Calendar Year Periods)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.E.7.i. (Counting the Initial 12 Months of Income for Disallowed Claims)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.E.7.j (Counting the Second 12 Months of Income for Disallowed Claims)
* M21-1 IX.i.3.A.3.c. (Reporting Period for Current-Law Pension)
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| Determine the types of income for pension purposes  | * Phase 5, Part 1c: *Determine Types of Income*
* **Income and Net Worth Status** job aid
* **SSA Inquiry** job aid
* **Initial Year** job aid
* 38 CFR 3.271 (Computation of income.)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.I (Counting Specific Types of Income)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.B.3. (Computing Monthly SSA and Medicare Benefits)
* M21-1 V.iii.1.E.6 (Counting IVAP)
* 38 CFR 3.272 (Exclusions from income.)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.I.3 (Income Exclusions)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.F.2 (Counting the Income of Dependents)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.K.5. (Hardship Deductions from a Child’s Income)
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| Select qualifying expenses for calculating income  | * **Phase 5, Part 1c: *Select Qualifying Expenses***
* **Care Expense Guide** job aid
* **Claim Types** job aid
* **Income and Net Worth Status** job aid
* **Initial Year** job aid
* 38 CFR 3.272 (Exclusions from income.)
* M21-1 IX.i.3.D.1. (Determining When UMEs Are Deductible)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.A.3.g. (Definition of Initial Year for Pension and Time Limit for Establishing Entitlement for the Initial Year)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.E.7.a. (Definition: Initial Year)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.E.7.b (Deductible Medical Expenses Paid During the Initial Year)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.G.2 (UME Deductions)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.G.3 (Sources of Medical Expenses)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.G.4.b (Information Required for a Medical Expense Deduction Claim)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.G.4.f. (Allowing Medical Expenses Prospectively)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.G.4.g. (Example of Annual Amount vs. Calculated Estimated Actual Amount)
* 38 CFR 3.262.o (Parents’ DIC)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.K.1.(Final Expense Deductions—Overview and Definitions)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.K.2.(Processing Final Expense Deductions)
* 38 CFR 3.272.g (Exclusions from income; Medical expenses)
* 38 CFR 3.272.h (Expenses of last illness, burials, and just debts)
* 38 CFR 3.272.i (Educational expenses.)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.K.3.a. (Educational Expense Deductions)
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| Determine income status | * Phase 5, Part 1c: *Determine Income Status*
* **Care Expense Guide** job aid
* **Upfront Verification** job aid
* **Income and Net Worth Status** job aid
* **Claim Types** job aid
* **Initial Year** job aid
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.G (Pension-Deductible Expenses)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.B (Social Security Administration (SSA) Benefits Program)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.I (Counting Specific Types of Income)
* M21-1 IX.iii.1.A.3 (Denying a Claim When IVAP is Excessive; Considering Amended Income Information)
* M21-1 IX.i.3.A (General Information on Income and Net Worth Development)
* M21-1 XIV.9.A.1. (Introduction to FTI Match and Corresponding Definitions)
* M21-1 XIV.9.A.1.d (Upfront Verification)
* 38 CFR 3.271 (Computation of income.)
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| Demonstrate how to develop for information/evidence needed to fulfill duty to assist | * Phase 5, Part 2: *Overview of the Development Process*
* **Develop for Missing Information/Evidence** job aid
* M21-1 III.i.2.D.1. (Evidence Requested from the Claimant)
* 38 CFR 3.159 (VA Assistance in Developing Claims.)
* M21-1 I.i.1.A.1.a. (Description and General Information on Duty to Notify and Duty to Assist)
* Public Law (PL) 106-475 (Veterans Claims Assistance Act of 2000)
* M21-1 III.i.2.D.1.b. (Notice of Time Limits to Submit Evidence)
* M21-1 III.i.2.A.1.g. (Handling Concurrent Development Actions)
* M21-1 III.i.2.D.1.d. (Claims Development by E-Mail, Telephone, and Electronic Means)
* M21-1 III.i.2.D.1.e. (Documenting Information Received by Telephone)
* M21-1 III.i.2.D.1.a. (Written Requests for Evidence)
* M21-1 III.ii.1.A.1.a. (VA’s Responsibility to Assist Claimants in Obtaining Evidence)
* M21-1 III.i.2.C.1. (Assisting With Federal Records Requests)
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| Describe how to prepare an award action  | * Phase 5, Part 3: *Overview of the Award Process*
* **Processing a Grant of Benefits** job aid
* **Processing a Denial of Benefits** job aid
* **Annotate the Award Checklist job aid**
* M21-1 VI.i.1.A. (Decision Authorization)
* M21-1 VI.i.1.B. (Decision Notices)
* M21-1 VI.i.1.A.2. (General Information on Processing Decisions)
* M21-1 VI.i.1.A.2.c. (Award Processing Responsibilities)
* M21-1 VI.i.1.A.3. (General Information on Denials)
* M21-1 VI.i.1.A.3.a. (Definition: Denial)
* M21-1 VI.i.1.A.4. (Denials Based on a Claimant’s Failure to Furnish Requested Evidence)
* M21-1 II.iii.2.F. (Withdrawal of Initial Claims)
* 38 CFR 3.106 (Renouncement.)
* M21-1 X.iv.4.1. (General Information About Renouncements)
* M21-1 X.iv.4.3.c. System Entries for Discontinuing an Award)
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