

PMC VSR Intermediate Core Course

**Phase 5.1(d): Knowledge Check Prep Worksheet**

**Appendix A**

July 2024

**Part 1 – Prove It!**

**Directions**: Read each scenario and determine if the statement is correct or incorrect. Answer each scenario with a (D) for Develop or (ND) for No Development, and provide a rationale.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scenario** | **D/ND** |
| Veteran Brown died in July 2022, and his wife was notified of his death, as the Veteran died while on a fishing trip in Malawi. The surviving spouse submitted VA Form 21P-534 and indicated that the body cannot be recovered. However, there was no death certificate submitted. The surviving spouse did, however, submit affidavits from various witnesses who have personal knowledge of the death, viewed Veteran Brown’s body, and confirmed that was his body. In the affidavits, the witnesses provided the facts and circumstances concerning Veteran Brown’s death, as well as the place, date, time, and cause of death. | **Answer:** |
| **Rationale** |
| Blanche was a co-worker of Lard Veteran for 15 years when the building where they worked collapsed in August 2020. On the day of the collapse, she left for a doctor’s appointment, and told Lard that she would see him the next week. About an hour after she left, the building collapsed due to an explosion at the factory next door. Donna, the surviving spouse of Lard, submitted a claim for survivors’ pension in July 2021. She submitted no death certificate; however, she did submit a copy of the coroner's report, which identified Lard Veteran as deceased. | **Answer:** |
| **Rationale:** |
| Mike the surviving spouse of Melinda Veteran notified VA that the Veteran passed on November 10, 2022. Mike also submitted an application for survivors benefits on February 3rd, 2023, with no death certificate. Chris, the PMC VSR reviewing Mike’s claim is trying to decide the next actions after reviewing the application and clinical summary that shows the fact and date of death that was signed by Dorothy, the medical officer | **Answer:** |
| **Rationale:** |

**Part 2 – Liberalized Law**

**Directions**: Read each scenario and determine if the statement is correct or incorrect. Provide a response for each scenario.

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| **Scenario** | **Yes/No - Rationale** |
| **Age 65-Liberalizing Law:**  Monica Veteran is age 72-year-old, and was granted Veterans Pension based on her date of claim of June 17, 2022.  The grant is based on a monthly retirement income of $1,700.00 and her annual medical expenses are $5500.00, which consists of monthly Medicare Part B premiums, and a supplemental health insurance of $250.00. The Veteran submitted a claim for an earlier effective date under liberalizing legislation within one year of VA’s decision notice, showing that income and net worth have not changed from the previous year.  However, medical expenses are slightly different in that the health insurance of $250.00 did not start until November 1, 2021.  Additionally, the claimant submitted $800.00 in medical expenses for medications, which was paid in December 2021. **Is a liberalized period applicable?** | **Answer:** |
| **Rationale:** |
| **Age 65-Liberalizing Law:**  Sam Veteran is age 70 and was granted Veterans Pension based on his date of claim of September 15, 2023.  The grant is based on a monthly retirement income of $1,900.00 and his annual medical expenses are $6400.00, which consists of a monthly Medicare Part B premium. The Veteran submits a claim for an earlier effective date under liberalizing legislation within one year of VA’s decision notice, showing that net worth and medical expenses have not changed for the prior year.  However, income is slightly different as he now receives a small retirement check of $200 per month, effective December 10, 2022. **Is a liberalized period applicable?** | **Answer:** |
| **Rationale:** |
| **Age 65-Liberalizing Law:**  Roland Veteran is age 68 and was granted Veterans Pension based on his date of claim of February 22, 2024.  The grant is based on a monthly retirement income of $1850.00 and his annual medical expenses are $7700.00, which consists of a monthly Medicare Part B premium. The Veteran submits a claim for an earlier effective date under liberalizing legislation within one year of VA’s decision notice, showing that net worth and medical expenses have not changed for the prior year.  **Is a liberalized period applicable?** | **Answer:** |
| **Rationale:** |

**Part 3 – Accrued Benefits and Substitution**

**Directions**: Read each scenario and determine if the statement is correct or incorrect. Provide a response and rationale for each item.

**Scenario 1:**

**Calculating the Time Limit:**

January 19, 2022, VA sent John Veteran notification of an award decision with decision review rights. However, the Veteran died on February 11th, 2022. VA then received an accrued claim and [***VA Form 21P-0847, Request for Substitution of Claimant Upon Death of Claimant***](https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0847-ARE.pdf), from Marcy, on April 20th, 2022, and she was notified of an approved substitution on July 18th, 2022. **Calculate the number of days the substitute would have to file a decision review election.**

**Answer:**

**Rationale:**

**Scenario 2:**

**Calculating the Time Limit:**

On May 14, 2023, VA sent Rebecca Veteran notification of an award decision with decision review rights; however, the Veteran died on May 20, 2023. On November 14, 2023, an accrued claim, as well as VA Form 21P-0847, was received. The claimant was then notified of an approved substitution on December 18th, 2023. **Calculate the remaining days the claimant has to file a decision review election.**

**Answer:**

**Rationale:**

**Scenario 3:**

**Determining Timeliness**

On January 20th, 2021, William Veteran files a claim for coronary artery disease, and VA issues the Veteran a notice granting the coronary artery disease at 80 percent, on August 1, 2021. VA receives notice that the Veteran died on September 30th, 2021, and receives an accrued claim, on March 5th, 2022. However, evidence of eligibility was not of record. On May 1, 2022, VA issues a notification to the claimant advising that evidence of eligibility is not of record.  The claimant is provided 60 days to submit the information for the request for substitution and 1 year from the date of the notification for the accrued claim. On December 10, 2022, VA receives evidence of eligibility.

**Should you grant or deny the request for substitution?**

**Why or why not?**

**How do you handle the accrued claim?**

**Part 4 – Burial: Match the Term**

**Directions**: Match the term to the definition in the chart. Some terms may or may not be used twice. Not all terms may apply.

1. Nearest national cemetery
2. Covered Veterans’ cemetery
3. Transportation
4. Last place of residence
5. Proof of death
6. Place of death
7. Plot

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Definition** | **A,B, C, D, E, F, G** |
| A Veterans cemetery in which a deceased Veteran is eligible to be buried that is owned by a State or is on a trust land owned by, or held in trust for, a tribal organization, and for which the Secretary has made a grant under 38 U.S.C. 2408 |  |
| The place where the Veteran lived at the time of death |  |
| A cemetery under the jurisdiction of VA National Cemetery Administration (NCA) or Arlington National Cemetery that is the closest, geographically, to the Veteran’s last place of residence |  |
| A copy of a coroner's report of death |  |
| The cost of transporting the remains. |  |
| A verdict of a coroner's jury of the State or community where death occurred |  |

**Part 5 – Entitlement to DIC**

**Directions**: For each scenario, match the 38 USC, that applies to each item.

1. 38 USC 1310
2. 38 USC 1151
3. 38 USC 1318

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Definitions** | **A, B, C** |
| Hilda Veteran died at the Eastern VAMC on April 8th, 2022. Charles, the surviving spouse claims that the Veteran’s death was caused by the Dale Physician’s lack of proper skill in dealing with coronary artery disease. Hilda submitted a claim for coronary artery disease in March 2022 as a secondary condition to her service-connected angina, and the claim is still pending. Charles presented articles, as well as evidence to show that the doctor would prescribe medications, he’d previously told Hilda to stop taking due to the side effects. Charles believes that the doctor’s carelessness and lack of skills caused Hilda’s death. **Assuming all criteria are met, and it is determined that the doctor at the VAMC is at fault, which USC code is applicable?** |  |
| Mary Veteran died on September 20th, 2022. It was determined that the cause of death is a presumptive disability. The evidence also shows that the Veteran meets the presumptive criteria. A claim for DIC was received on January 19th, 2023. **Assuming all criteria are met, which USC code is applicable?** |  |
| Roger Veteran died on May 15th, 2023, and a claim for DIC was received on July 10th, 2023. A review of the records shows that Mark was granted SC for conditions affecting his vital organs. The contributory cause of death shown on the death certificate matches one of Roger’s SC disabilities. **Assuming all criteria are met, which USC code is applicable?** |  |
| Larry Veteran a former prisoner of war, died on November 8th, 2023. He filed a claim for heart disease on November 22, 2022, and records show that he would have been entitled to receive disability compensation for an SC disability totally disabling. The claim was still pending when he died. A DIC claim was received on February 27th, 2024. **Assuming all criteria are met, which USC code is applicable?** |  |