



## PENSION AND FIDUCIARY SERVICE

PMC VSR Advanced Core Course  
Phase 5: Stages of a Claim  
Part 1: Determine Eligibility

# **Lesson 25: Determine Burial Benefits Eligibility**

Trainee Guide

September 19, 2017

Version 1.0

**Lesson 25: Determine Burial Benefits Eligibility**  
**Trainee Guide**

**Determine Burial Benefits Eligibility**

**Lesson Overview**

Topic	Description
Time Estimate:	3 hours
Purpose of the Lesson:	This lesson is part of the entry-level course for PMC VSRs. The purpose of this lesson is to train PMC VSRs how to determine burial benefits eligibility through demonstration and practice. This lesson also includes instruction on how to use the systems for determining burial benefits eligibility.
Prerequisite Training Requirements:	Prior to taking the Determine Burial Benefits Eligibility lesson, trainees must complete entry-level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phases 1–4</li> <li>• Phase 5 Lessons 1-24. (Refer to the PMC VSR Program of Instruction for a list of lessons.)</li> </ul>
Target Audience:	This lesson is for entry-level PMC VSRs
Lesson References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Master Course Map</b> learning aid</li> <li>• VA Form 21P-530, Application for Burial Benefits</li> <li>• VA Form 27-0820, Report of General Information</li> <li>• VA Form 27-0820a, Report of First Notice of Death</li> <li>• M21-1 I.1.B.1.a (VA's Duty to Notify Claimants of Necessary Information or Evidence)</li> <li>• M21-1 III.ii.1.C.8.a (Accepting Outdated Versions of a VA Form)</li> <li>• M21-1 III.ii.7.4.c (Specific Situations in Which Survivors Benefits Claims Should Be Referred to the Rating Activity)</li> <li>• M21-1 III.iv.4.B.4.a (SC for Hearing Loss and Tinnitus)</li> <li>• M21-1 III.v.2.A.4.a (Handling a Claimant's Failure to Submit Evidence VA Requested)</li> <li>• M21-1 IV.ii.2.B.2.a (Overview of Presumptive SC)</li> <li>• M21-1 IV.iii.1.B.1.h (When to Develop for Service Connection)</li> </ul>

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Topic	Description
	<p>for the Cause of Death)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M21-1 IV.iii.1.B.1.m (Obtaining Evidence Relating the Cause of Death to an SC Condition)</li> <li>• M21-1 IV.iii.2.A.1.a (Considering the Reasonable Probability of SC Death)</li> <li>• M21-1 IV.iii.2.A.1.c (When DIC is Payable Under 38 U.S.C. 1318)</li> <li>• M21-1 VII.1.A (General Information) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ M21-1 VII.1.A.1 (Definitions of Burial Benefit Terms) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.A.1.c (Definition: Burial at Sea)</li> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.A.1.f (Definition Plot)</li> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.A.1.g (Definition: Interment)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ M21-1 VII.1.A.2 (Time Limit for Filing Claims) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.A.2.a (Time Limits for Filing a Burial Claim)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ M21-1 VII.1.A.3 (Priority of Payments) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.A.3.a (Automatic Payments to an Eligible Surviving Spouse)</li> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.A.3.b (Priority of Claimants)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ M21-1 VII.1.A.4 (Required Evidence for Burial Benefits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.A.4.d (Proof of Death)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ M21-1 VII.1.A.5 (Automated Burial and Plot or Interment Allowance)</li> <li>○ M21-1 VII.1.A.6 (End Product Control)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• M21-1 VII.1.B (Burial Benefits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ M21-1 VII.1.B.1 (General Veteran Eligibility Criteria)</li> <li>○ M21-1 VII.1.B.2 (SC Burial Allowance) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.B.2.b (Payment Amount for the SC Burial Allowance)</li> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.B.2.c (When to Send a Claim for SC Death for Rating Decision)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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Topic	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ M21-1 VII.1.B.3 (NSC Burial Allowance)</li> <li>○ M21-1 VII.1.B.4 (Department of Veterans Affairs [VA] Hospitalization Death Burial Allowance) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.B.4.c (Payment Amount for VA Hospitalization Death Burial Allowance)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ M21-1 VII.1.B.5 (Plot or Interment Allowance) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.B.5.a (General Eligibility for Plot or Interment Allowance)</li> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.B.5.d (Plot or Interment Allowance for Burial in Other Than a State or National Veterans Cemetery)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ M21-1 VII.1.B.6 (Transportation Reimbursement) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.B.6.a (Transportation Reimbursement for Burial in a National Cemetery)</li> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.B.6.b (Transportation Reimbursement for VA Hospitalization Death)</li> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.B.6.c (Required Evidence for Transportation Reimbursement Claim)</li> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.B.6.e (Determining the Amount of Payable Transportation Expenses for Claims Under 38 CFR 3.1709)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ M21-1 VII.1.B.7 (Burial of Veterans Unclaimed Remains) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.B.7.a (General Eligibility for Unclaimed Remains)</li> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.B.7.c (Unclaimed Remains of a Veteran who Died at a VA Hospital)</li> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.B.7.d (Third Party NSC Burial Allowance for Unclaimed Remains)</li> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.B.7.f (Processing Requests for Verification of Veteran Status of Identified Remains)</li> <li>▪ M21-1 VII.1.B.7.g (Making Funeral and Burial</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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Topic	Description
	<p align="center">Arrangements)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38 CFR 3.211 (Death)</li> <li>• 38 CFR 3.309 (Disease subject to presumptive service connection)</li> <li>• 38 CFR 3.361 (Benefits under 38 U.S.C. 1151[a] for additional disability or death due to hospital care, medical or surgical treatment, examination, training and rehabilitation services, or compensated work therapy program)</li> <li>• 38 CFR 3.1704 (Burial allowance based on service-connected death)</li> <li>• 38 CFR 3.1705 (Burial allowance based on non-service-connected death)</li> <li>• 38 CFR 3.1706 (Burial allowance for a Veteran who died while hospitalized by VA)</li> <li>• 38 CFR 3.1707 (Plot or interment allowances for burial in State Veterans cemetery or other cemetery)</li> <li>• 38 CFR 3.1708 (Burial of a Veteran whose remains are unclaimed)</li> <li>• 38 CFR 3.1709 (Transportation expenses for burial in a national cemetery)</li> <li>• 38 CFR 21.6503(b) (Qualified veteran) (includes definition for individual unemployability)</li> <li>• 38 U.S.C. 1318 (Benefits for survivors of certain Veterans rated totally disabled at time of death)</li> <li>• 38 U.S.C. 2302 (Funeral expenses)</li> <li>• 38 U.S.C. 2303 (Death in Department facility; plot allowance)</li> <li>• 38 U.S.C. 2304 (Claims for reimbursement)</li> <li>• 38 U.S.C. 2305 (Persons eligible under prior law)</li> <li>• 38 U.S.C. 2307 (Death from service-connected disability)</li> <li>• 38 U.S.C. 2308 (Transportation of deceased Veteran to a national cemetery)</li> <li>• 38 U.S.C. 2402 (Persons eligible for interment in national cemeteries)</li> </ul>

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Topic	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PMC Bulletin, November 2015</li> <li>• <b>Burial Benefits Eligibility</b> job aid</li> <li>• See <i>Lesson 25: Appendix A</i> for references introduced in earlier lessons</li> </ul>
Technical Competencies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Benefits and Eligibility (PMC VSR)</li> <li>• VBA Applications (PMC VSR)</li> </ul>
Knowledge Check:	Phase 5: Stages of a Claim, Part 1(d), Beyond Basic Eligibility and Ready to Rate Knowledge Check
Lesson Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine burial benefits eligibility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Define types of burial benefits.</li> <li>○ Determine whether general eligibility requirements for burial benefits are met.</li> <li>○ Identify claimant eligible for payment.</li> <li>○ Determine whether eligibility requirements for service-connected (SC) burial benefits are met.</li> <li>○ Determine whether eligibility requirements for non-service-connected (NSC) burial benefits are met.</li> <li>○ Determine whether eligibility requirements for VA hospitalization death burial benefits are met.</li> <li>○ Determine whether development is required for burial-related information.</li> <li>○ Determine if a burial claim requires rating activity.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
What You Need:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trainee guide</li> <li>• <b>Master Course Map</b> learning aid</li> <li>• Pen and paper</li> <li>• Access to the <b>Burial Benefits Eligibility</b> job aid from VSR Assistant</li> <li>• See <i>Lesson 25: Appendix A</i> for other job aids</li> <li>• <i>Lesson 25: Appendix B</i> exercise worksheet</li> <li>• Access to applicable VBA applications used in job aids and</li> </ul>

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Topic	Description
	references listed in <i>Lesson 25: Appendix A</i>

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PowerPoint Slides	Notes
<p><b>Lesson 25: Determine Burial Benefits Eligibility</b></p>	
<p><b>You Are Here</b></p> <pre> graph TD     subgraph MainFlow [Main Process Flow]         P1[PHASE 5 PART 1 Determine Eligibility] --&gt; P2[PHASE 5 PART 2 Process a Claim]         P2 --&gt; P3[PHASE 5 PART 3 Promulgate Non-Rating or Rating Decision]         P3 --&gt; P4[PHASE 5 PART 4 Prepare Decision Notice]         P4 --&gt; P5[PHASE 5 PART 5 Award Adjustments]     end     subgraph BranchFlow [Branch Flow]         P1a[PHASE 5 PART 1a Initial Screening and Establish a Claim] --&gt; P1b[PHASE 5 PART 1b Basic Eligibility]         P1b --&gt; P1c[PHASE 5 PART 1c Income Eligibility]         P1c --&gt; P1d[PHASE 5 PART 1d Beyond Basic Eligibility and Ready to Rate]     end     P1 --- P1a     P1d --- P1     </pre>	
<p><b>Beyond Basic Eligibility and Ready to Rate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verify Proof of Death of Veteran for Survivors' Benefits</li> <li>• Apply Liberalizing Law to Pension Eligibility</li> <li>• Process Veteran-Married-to-Veteran Cases</li> <li>• Determine Accrued Benefits Eligibility</li> <li>• <b>Determine Burial Benefits Eligibility</b></li> <li>• Determine Month of Death (MOD) Eligibility</li> <li>• Overview of Ready to Rate</li> <li>• Determine Eligibility for DIC and Parents' DIC</li> </ul>	



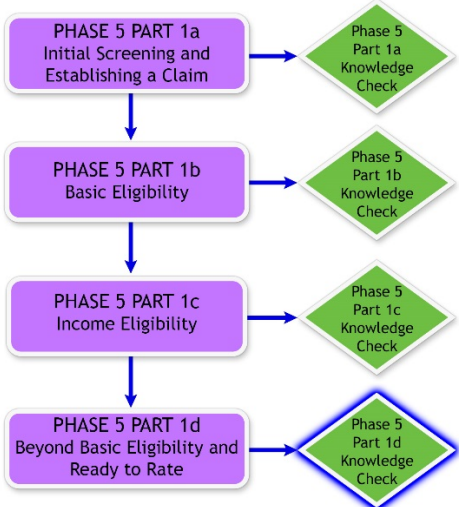
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PowerPoint Slides	Notes
<p><b>Scenario—Determine Burial Benefits Eligibility</b></p> <p>PMC VSR Debra Peterson received VA Form 21P-530, Application for Burial Benefits, stating that the brother of deceased Veteran Eugene Fox incurred expenses related to the Veteran's burial, claims NSC burial, and that the remains were scattered at sea. The Veteran's death certificate lists that he died of Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease. A review of VA Form 21P-530 and BIRLS shows the Veteran served from 5/21/66-6/20/72. PMC VSR requested Veteran's service records to review for Republic of Vietnam (RVN) service. Upon receipt of the service records, Ms. Peterson was able to confirm that the Veteran's service was in RVN and sends the claim for rating review. The RVSR grants service-connected death by rating. Grant SC burial benefits with appropriate language in decision notice.</p>	

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<p><b>Why It Matters!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burial benefits assist the deceased Veteran’s family with unexpected expenses they will incur or have already incurred at a difficult time.</li> <li>• In addition, there are several different types of burial benefits, each with different eligibility requirements.</li> <li>• Thus, it is important to be able recognize the benefit being requested and apply the correct rules.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Technical Competencies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Benefits and Eligibility (PMC VSR)</li> <li>• VBA Applications (PMC VSR)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Lesson Objectives (1 of 2)</b></p> <p>Determine burial benefits eligibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define types of burial benefits.</li> <li>• Determine whether general eligibility requirements for burial benefits are met.</li> <li>• Identify claimant eligible for payment.</li> <li>• Determine whether eligibility requirements for service-connected (SC) burial benefits are met.</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>Lesson Objectives (2 of 2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine whether eligibility requirements for non-service-connected (NSC) burial benefits are met.</li> <li>• Determine whether eligibility requirements for VA hospitalization death burial benefits are met.</li> <li>• Determine whether development is required for burial-related information.</li> <li>• Determine whether a burial claim requires rating activity.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Knowledge Check</b></p>  <pre> graph TD     A[PHASE 5 PART 1a Initial Screening and Establishing a Claim] --&gt; B{Phase 5 Part 1a Knowledge Check}     A --&gt; C[PHASE 5 PART 1b Basic Eligibility]     C --&gt; D{Phase 5 Part 1b Knowledge Check}     C --&gt; E[PHASE 5 PART 1c Income Eligibility]     E --&gt; F{Phase 5 Part 1c Knowledge Check}     E --&gt; G[PHASE 5 PART 1d Beyond Basic Eligibility and Ready to Rate]     G --&gt; H{Phase 5 Part 1d Knowledge Check}     </pre> <p>The diagram illustrates the sequential steps of Phase 5. It starts with 'PHASE 5 PART 1a Initial Screening and Establishing a Claim', which leads to a 'Phase 5 Part 1a Knowledge Check'. From there, it proceeds to 'PHASE 5 PART 1b Basic Eligibility', which has its own 'Phase 5 Part 1b Knowledge Check'. The process then moves to 'PHASE 5 PART 1c Income Eligibility', which includes a 'Phase 5 Part 1c Knowledge Check'. Finally, it reaches 'PHASE 5 PART 1d Beyond Basic Eligibility and Ready to Rate', which concludes with a 'Phase 5 Part 1d Knowledge Check'. Each knowledge check is represented by a diamond shape, and the final one is highlighted with a blue border.</p>	

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<p><b>Definitions of Burial Benefit Terms</b></p> <p>M21-1 VII.1.A.1 (Definitions of Burial Benefit Terms)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alkaline hydrolysis</li> <li>• Burial</li> <li>• Burial at sea</li> <li>• Cremation</li> <li>• Interment</li> <li>• Last place of residence</li> <li>• Medical school donation</li> <li>• Nearest national cemetery</li> <li>• Place of death</li> <li>• Plot</li> <li>• Unclaimed Veteran remains</li> </ul>	
<p><b>References for Types of Burial Benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M21-1 VII.1.B.2 (SC Burial Allowance)</li> <li>• M21-1 VII.1.B.3 (NSC Burial Allowance)</li> <li>• M21-1 VII.1.B.4 (Department of Veterans Affairs [VA] Hospitalization Death Burial Allowance)</li> <li>• M21-1 VII.1.B.5 (Plot or Interment Allowance)</li> <li>• M21-1 VII.1.B.6 (Transportation Reimbursement)</li> <li>• M21-1 VII.1.B.7 (Burial of Veterans Unclaimed Remains)</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>Time Limits for Filing a Burial Claim</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claims for the NSC burial allowance must be filed within two years of the date of permanent burial or cremation of the Veteran.</li> <li>• There is <b>no</b> time limit for applying for the:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SC burial allowance</li> <li>○ VA hospitalization death burial allowance</li> <li>○ Plot or interment allowance</li> <li>○ Transportation reimbursement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>General Eligibility Requirements of a Veteran for Burial Benefits</b></p> <p>M21-1 VII.1.B.1 (General Veteran Eligibility Criteria)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service criteria</li> <li>• Discharge criteria</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>Types of Burial Benefits</b></p> <p>The Veteran's death must qualify under at least one of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SC death <b>OR</b></li><li>• NSC death <b>OR</b></li><li>• VA hospitalization death <b>OR</b></li><li>• Unclaimed, identified remains</li></ul> <p>Note: The plot and/or transportation allowances can only be paid if one of the burial benefits above is also payable.</p>	

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<p><b>Claimants Eligible for Payment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Automatic payments may be made to eligible spouse (M21-1 VII.1.A.3.a [Automatic Payments to an Eligible Surviving Spouse])</li><li>• Priority of claimants (M21-1 VII.1.A.3.b [Priority of Claimants])<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Surviving spouse</li><li>○ Surviving legal union partner (per State law)</li><li>○ Child</li><li>○ Parent</li><li>○ Executor of estate</li></ul></li><li>• Other family members (PMC Bulletin November 2015)</li><li>• Funeral director for unclaimed remains (M21-1 VII.1.B.7 [Burial of Veterans Unclaimed Remains])</li></ul>	

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<p><b>Eligibility for Plot or Interment Allowance</b></p> <p>M21-1 VII.1.B.5 (Plot or Interment Allowance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not payable if Veteran is buried or interred in a state or national Veteran's cemetery</li><li>• Payable for a burial plot for deceased Veteran who is eligible for the NSC or VA hospitalization death burial allowance when the Veteran is buried in a cemetery <b>other</b> than a state or national Veteran's cemetery and when eligible claimant incurred expenses</li><li>• Not payable if deceased Veteran's cremains/urn reside(s) at survivor's residence or if Veteran's body committed to sea</li><li>• Note: VA does not pay separate plot allowance when paying SC burial allowance</li></ul>	



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<p><b>Eligibility for Transportation Reimbursement (1 of 2)</b></p> <p>M21-1 VII.1.B.6 (Transportation Reimbursement)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meets basic burial eligibility requirements</li><li>• Proper itemized receipt or statement required</li><li>• Veteran death as a result of SC disability <b>AND</b> the Veteran's remains were interred in a national cemetery <b>OR</b></li><li>• Veteran receiving SC disability compensation <b>OR</b> would have been receiving SC disability but for receipt of military retired pay <b>OR</b> receiving VA pension as the higher benefit than their SC disability <b>AND</b> the Veteran's remains were interred in a national cemetery <b>OR</b></li></ul>	

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<p><b>Eligibility for Transportation Reimbursement (2 of 2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Veteran's death occurred while hospitalized by VA (or facility listed in 38 CFR 3.1706) or under VA care <b>OR</b></li><li>• Veteran whose remains are identified but unclaimed <b>AND</b> the Veteran's remains were interred in a national cemetery</li><li>• Costs incurred to transport remains to nearest national cemetery with available space from Veteran's last place of residence (except in the case of VA hospitalization death when national cemetery location is not a factor)</li></ul>	
<p><b>Consider All Possible Burial Benefits</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• With each VA Form 21P-530 received, consider all possible burial benefits or allowances, even if not claimed.</li><li>• An application for one type is considered an application for all types of burial benefits or allowances.</li></ul>	

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<p><b>Burial Benefits Group Activity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instructions:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Divide into three groups.</li><li>○ Receive your claim assignment.</li><li>○ Confer with your group to answer the questions beneath about your claim.</li><li>○ Use any resources necessary to determine your answers.</li><li>○ Be prepared to share your answers with the class.</li></ul></li><li>• Time allowed: 5 minutes for each group to determine answers to their assigned claim questions.</li></ul>	

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<p><b>Group 1: Claim 1—SC Death</b></p> <p>PMC VSR Alvin Mack received VA Form 21P-530, Application for Burial Benefits, from the spouse on the award of a Veteran, who had 100% SC disability, after the first notice of death (FNOD) was processed. PMC VSR Mack reviewed the Award Information tab in CORPORATE and the Payment History screen shows that the spouse was automatically paid the \$2,000 SC burial allowance. VA Form 21P-530 also shows that the Veteran's spouse incurred expenses and that the Veteran is buried in a national cemetery; however, the transportation block is left blank. A statement of account (receipt) from the funeral home was included with the VA Form 21P-530 and shows that the total bill was \$1,800, \$600 of which was for transporting the Veteran's body/remains.</p>	

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<p><b>Eligibility Requirements for SC Burial Benefits</b></p> <p>M21-1 VII.1.B.2 (SC Burial Allowance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to qualify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Veteran rated totally disabled (100%) for an SC disability or disabilities at time of death (excluding IU)</li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>○ Veteran died as a result of SC disability or disabilities</li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>○ Claimant met criteria for DIC under 38 U.S.C. 1318</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Benefit does not include payment of plot or interment allowance</li> <li>• Benefit may include transportation reimbursement (receipt required)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Group 1: Claim 1—SC Death Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is the claimant?</li> <li>• Is the claimant eligible for SC burial benefits? Why or why not?</li> <li>• Is the claimant eligible for a plot allowance? If so, how much?</li> <li>• Is the claimant eligible for transportation reimbursement? If so, how much?</li> </ul>	

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**Group 1: Claim 1—SC Death**

PMC VSR Alvin Mack received VA Form 21P-530, Application for Burial Benefits, from the spouse on the award of a Veteran, who had 100% SC disability, after the first notice of death (FNOD) was processed. PMC VSR Mack reviewed the Award Information tab in CORPORATE and the Payment History screen shows that the spouse was automatically paid the \$2,000 SC burial allowance. VA Form 21P-530 also shows that the Veteran's spouse incurred expenses and that the Veteran is buried in a National Cemetery; however, the transportation block is left blank. A statement of account (receipt) from the funeral home was included with the VA Form 21P-530 and shows that the total bill was \$1,800, \$600 of which was for transporting the Veteran's body/remains.

**Group 1: Claim 1—SC Death Questions**

- Who is the claimant?
- Is the claimant eligible for SC burial benefits? Why or why not?
- Is the claimant eligible for a plot allowance? If so, how much?
- Is the claimant eligible for transportation reimbursement? If so, how much?

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<p><b>Group 1: Claim 1—SC Death Answers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who is the claimant?</li><li>• Is the claimant eligible for SC burial benefits? Why or why not?</li><li>• Is the claimant eligible for a plot allowance? If so, how much?</li><li>• Is the claimant eligible for transportation reimbursement? If so, how much?</li></ul>	

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<p><b>Group 2: Claim 2—NSC Death</b></p> <p>PMC VSR Alice Rudolph received VA Form 21P-530, Application for Burial Benefits, from the spouse of a deceased Veteran claiming NSC burial. The PMC VSR determines the Veteran's spouse was recently granted Survivors Pension benefits and a review of SHARE shows he was automatically paid the NSC burial of \$300. A review of the Corporate record indicates the Veteran was receiving pension benefits at death and was not SC for any disabilities. VA Form 21P-530 states that the Veteran died at home, she was cremated, and her urn is located at the family home, for which the spouse paid \$550 in transportation expenses. The death certificate shows the cause of death to be dementia.</p>	

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<p><b>Eligibility Requirements for NSC Burial Benefits</b></p> <p>M21-1 VII.1.B.3 (NSC Burial Allowance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In order to qualify:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Veteran was receiving pension, compensation, or military retired pay in lieu of compensation at time of death</li><li>○ Veteran had claim pending at time of death and was entitled prior to date of death</li><li>○ Veteran had insufficient resources in his/her estate to cover burial and funeral expenses and Veteran's body is unclaimed</li></ul></li><li>• Benefit may or may not include plot or interment allowance depending on location of burial or interment</li><li>• Benefit may include transportation reimbursement for remains to nearest national cemetery with available space from Veteran's last place of residence (receipt required)</li></ul>	



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<p><b>Group 2: Claim 2—NSC Death Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who is the claimant?</li><li>• Is the claimant eligible for NSC burial benefits? Why or why not?</li><li>• Is the claimant eligible for a plot allowance? If so, how much?</li><li>• Is the claimant eligible for transportation reimbursement? If so, how much?</li></ul>	

**Group 2: Claim 2—NSC Death**

PMC VSR Alice Rudolph received VA Form 21P-530, Application for Burial Benefits, from the spouse of a deceased Veteran. The PMC VSR determined the Veteran's spouse was recently granted Survivors Pension benefits and a review of SHARE shows he was automatically paid the NSC burial of \$300. VA Form 21P-530 states that the Veteran died at home, she was cremated, and her urn is located at the family home, for which the spouse paid \$550 in transportation expenses.

**Group 2: Claim 2—NSC Death Questions**

- Who is the claimant?
- Is the claimant eligible for NSC burial benefits? Why or why not?
- Is the claimant eligible for a plot allowance? If so, how much?
- Is the claimant eligible for transportation reimbursement? If so, how much?

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<p><b>Group 2: Claim 2—NSC Death Answers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who is the claimant?</li><li>• Is the claimant eligible for NSC burial benefits? Why or why not?</li><li>• Is the claimant eligible for a plot allowance? If so, how much?</li><li>• Is the claimant eligible for transportation reimbursement? If so, how much?</li></ul>	

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<p><b>Group 3: Claim 3—VA Hospitalization Death</b></p> <p>PMC VSR Misha Austen received VA Form 21P-530, Application for Burial Benefits, from the son of a deceased Veteran, claiming VA hospitalization burial benefits. A review of SHARE confirms that \$300 was auto-paid for NSC to the spouse of the Veteran. A review of the Corporate record shows the Veteran was receiving 10% compensation benefits at death due to tinnitus. VA Form 21P-530 and death certificate both state that the Veteran died at a VA Medical Center; the death certificate lists a stroke as the cause of death. A review of CAPRI confirms location of death. VA Form 21P-530 states and death certificate corroborate that Veteran's cremains are located in the son's home. VA Form 21P-530 indicates that the son incurred costs related to the Veteran's burial and a statement of account (receipt) lists transportation expenses and shows a total cost of \$3,500.</p>	

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<p><b>Eligibility Requirements for VA Hospitalization Death Burial Benefits</b></p> <p>M21-1 VII.1.B.4 (Veterans Affairs [VA] Hospitalization Death Burial Allowance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In order to qualify, Veteran was, at time of death:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Hospitalized by VA</li><li>○ Hospitalized under VA contract at non-VA facility</li><li>○ Traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense</li><li>○ Residing at an approved State Veterans' home</li></ul></li><li>• Benefit may or may not include plot or interment allowance depending on location of burial or interment</li><li>• Benefit includes transportation reimbursement for remains to cemetery location (receipt required)</li></ul>	

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PowerPoint Slides	Notes
<p><b>Group 3: Claim 3—VA Hospitalization Death Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who is the claimant?</li><li>• Is the claimant eligible for VA hospitalization death burial benefits? Why or why not?</li><li>• Is the claimant eligible for a plot allowance? If so, how much?</li><li>• Is the claimant eligible for transportation reimbursement? If so, how much?</li></ul>	

**Group 3: Claim 3—VA Hospitalization Death Scenario**

PMC VSR Misha Austen received VA Form 21P-530, Application for Burial Benefits, from the son of a deceased Veteran, claiming VA hospitalization burial benefits. A review of SHARE confirms that \$300 was auto-paid for NSC to the spouse of the Veteran. VA Form 21P-530 and death certificate both state that the Veteran died at a VA Medical Center. A review of CAPRI confirms location of death. VA Form 21P-530 states and death certificate corroborate that Veteran's cremains are located in the son's home. VA Form 21P-530 indicates that the son incurred costs related to the Veteran's burial and a statement of account (receipt) lists transportation expenses and shows a total cost of \$3,500.

**Group 3: Claim 3—VA Hospitalization Death Questions**

- Who is the claimant?
- Is the claimant eligible for VA hospitalization death burial benefits? Why or why not?
- Is the claimant eligible for a plot allowance? If so, how much?
- Is the claimant eligible for transportation reimbursement? If so, how much?

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<p><b>Group 3: Claim 3—VA Hospitalization Death Answers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who is the claimant?</li><li>• Is the claimant eligible for VA hospitalization death burial benefits? Why or why not?</li><li>• Is the claimant eligible for a plot allowance? If so, how much?</li><li>• Is the claimant eligible for transportation reimbursement? If so, how much?</li></ul>	

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<p><b>Eligibility Requirements for Veterans Unclaimed Remains Burial Benefits</b></p> <p>M21-1 VII.1.B.7.a (General Eligibility for Unclaimed Remains)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NSC burial allowance is payable for a Veteran if:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Remains of the identified deceased Veteran are unclaimed</li><li>○ Insufficient resources are available in the Veteran's estate to cover the burial and funeral expenses</li></ul></li><li>• Compensation or pension at time of death is <b>no longer</b> a requirement</li><li>• Veteran remains must be identified</li><li>• Benefit may or may not include plot or interment allowance depending on location of burial or interment and claimant</li><li>• Benefit includes transportation reimbursement for remains to a national cemetery (receipt required)</li></ul>	

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<p><b>Development for Missing Burial-Related Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of required evidence</li><li>• Incomplete forms</li><li>• Qualifying service not verified</li><li>• Proof of death not verified</li><li>• Cause of death not verified for an SC claim</li><li>• Itemized receipt or statement of account for incurred expenses not received</li></ul>	



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<p><b>Does the Burial Claim Require Rating Activity?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Do not</b> send to rating activity:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Rated 100% SC at time of death (excluding IU)</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Send</b> to rating activity:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ If rated IU at time of death for 10 years or more</li><li>○ If the burial claimant claims SC burial and Veteran was not 100% at death</li><li>○ Veteran dies of presumptive condition for herbicide exposure or Camp Lejeune exposure and has necessary service to corroborate exposure</li><li>○ Any other issues under M21-1 III.ii.7.4.c (Specific Situations in Which Survivors Benefits Claims Should Be Referred to the Rating Activity)</li></ul></li></ul>	

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<p><b>Which of the Previous Burial Claims Require Rating Activity?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does Claim 1—SC Death require rating activity? Why or why not?</li><li>• Does Claim 2—NSC Death require rating activity? Why or why not?</li><li>• Does Claim 3—VA Hospitalization Death require rating activity? Why or why not?</li></ul>	
<p><b>Which of the Previous Burial Claims Require Rating Activity? Answers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does Claim 1—SC Death require rating activity? Why or why not?</li><li>• Does Claim 2—NSC Death require rating activity? Why or why not?</li><li>• Does Claim 3—VA Hospitalization Death require rating activity? Why or why not?</li></ul>	

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<p><b>Burial Benefits Eligibility Practice Exercise</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instructions:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Work in the same three groups as previously.</li><li>○ Read your group's assigned scenario in <i>Appendix B: Exercise Worksheet</i>.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Scenario 1—Group 2</li><li>▪ Scenario 2—Group 3</li><li>▪ Scenario 3—Group 1</li></ul></li><li>○ Confer with your group to answer the questions beneath your scenario.</li><li>○ Use any resources necessary to determine your answers.</li><li>○ Be prepared to share your answers with the class.</li></ul></li><li>• Time allowed: 10 minutes per group</li></ul>	


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<p><b>Burial Benefits Eligibility Practice Exercise—Scenario 1 Answers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Who is the claimant?</li><li>2. Does the claimant meet the eligibility requirements to receive burial benefits?</li><li>3. What kind of burial allowance is requested?</li><li>4. Is development required to determine eligibility? If so, for what?</li><li>5. Assuming all developed evidence was received, should this claim be submitted to the rating activity?</li></ol>	
<p><b>Burial Benefits Eligibility Practice Exercise—Scenario 2 Answers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Who is the claimant?</li><li>2. Does the claimant meet the eligibility requirements to receive burial benefits?</li><li>3. What kind of burial allowance is requested?</li><li>4. Is development required to determine eligibility? If so, for what?</li><li>5. Assuming all developed evidence was received, should this claim be submitted to the rating activity? Why or why not?</li></ol>	

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<p><b>Burial Benefits Eligibility Practice Exercise—Scenario 3</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who is the claimant?</li> <li>2. Does the claimant meet the eligibility requirements to receive burial benefits?</li> <li>3. What kind of burial allowance is requested?</li> <li>4. Is development required to determine eligibility? If so, for what?</li> <li>5. Assuming all developed evidence was received, should this claim be submitted to the rating activity? Why or why not?</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Scenario 3—What Happens Next?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PMC VSR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Receives the claim back from rating activity.</li> <li>○ Reviews the rating decision to determine whether SC was granted.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In this situation, the RVSR denied SC for the cause of death.</li> <li>• What decisions would the PMC VSR need to make?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Scenario 3—What Happens Next? Answers</b></p> <p>What decisions would the PMC VSR need to make?</p>	

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<b>Questions?</b> 	
<b>Lesson Summary (1 of 3)</b> What are the main tasks a PMC VSR must consider to determine burial benefits eligibility correctly?	
<b>Lesson Summary (2 of 3)</b>	
<b>Lesson Summary (3 of 3)</b>	
<b>What's Next?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lesson 26: Determine Eligibility for Month of Death Benefit</li><li>• Review of all references and job aids provided in this lesson</li></ul>	