

PMC VSR Core Course

Phase 3: PMC VSR Resources

Lesson 5: Overview of Pension Systems and Applications

Lesson Plan

October 28, 2016 Version 1.0

Overview of Pension Systems and Applications

Lesson Overview

Topic	Description	
Time Estimate:	2 hours	
Purpose of the Lesson:	This lesson is part of the entry-level curriculum, Core Course for PMC VSRs. The purpose of this lesson is to provide an overview of systems used by PMC VSRs to process claims.	
Prerequisite Training Requirements:	Prior to taking the Overview of Pension Systems and Applications lesson, trainees must complete:	
Requirements.	PMC VSR Core Course Phases 1–2	
	PMC VSR Core Course Phase 3, Lessons 1–4	
Target Audience:	This lesson is for entry level PMC VSRs.	
Lesson	Master Course Map learning aid	
References:	Software systems user manuals on the VBA intranet	
	Pension Systems and Applications job aid	
Knowledge Check:	Phase 3: PMC VSR Resources Knowledge Check	
Technical Competencies:	VBA Applications (PMC VSR)	
Lesson Objectives:	Identify the purpose of systems used to initiate, develop, and process claims	
	Locate systems used to initiate, develop, and process claims	
	Log in to systems used to initiate, develop, and process claims	
	Navigate Compensation and Pension Knowledge Management portal	
What You	Lesson plan	

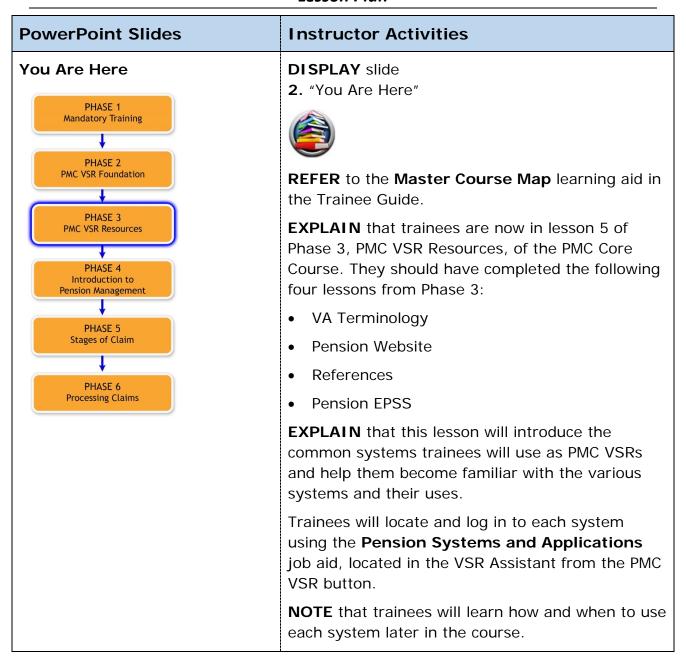
Topic	Description	
Need:	Master Course Map learning aid	
	• Slides	
	 Projector TMS #3971406 Introduction to Compensation and Pension Knowledge Management (CPKM) Portal video and Adobe Flash to run it. Access to VBA intranet 	
	Access to the Pension Systems and Applications job aid from VSR Assistant	
	Access to each system:	
	o CPKM	
	o SHARE	
	o Virtual VA	
	o VBMS	
	o VBMS-A	
	o MAP-D	
	o VETSNET	
	o COVERS	
	o PIES	
	o DPRIS	
	o PCGL	
	o FAS	
	o VACOLS	
	o CAPRI	
	 For each system listed above, knowledge of the current status of that system (e.g., Is it now obsolete? Has another system replaced it?) 	
	For each trainee, log in information including user names and passwords for each system.	
	For each trainee, a computer with access to the VBA intranet	

Instructor Notes

This lesson introduces the common systems that trainees will use as a PMC VSR and helps them to become familiar with the various systems, their uses, and current statuses of the systems. Trainees will locate and log in to each system using the PMC VSR Systems job aid, located in the VSR Assistant from the PMC VSR button, as a guide. Trainees will learn how to navigate the CPKM, as it is the primary source of reference materials for all tasks. They will learn how and when to use the other systems later in the course.

Prior to beginning this lesson, review the job aid and determine if any of the system information is outdated. Be prepared to share the updates with the students and to report the required changes to the Service to update in the job aid.

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Overview of Pension Systems and Applications	DISPLAY slide 1. "Overview of Pension Systems and Applications"
	INTRODUCE yourself as the instructor.
	INTRODUCE the lesson.



PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Why It Matters!All claims require systems to process	DISPLAY slide 3. "Why It Matters!" EXPLAIN that the PMC VSR uses systems to
You will use systems to:	accomplish all aspects of the job.
o Initiate claims	
Develop evidence for claims	
Promulgate the awards for claims	
 Notify the claimant of actions taken on the claim 	
If you don't know which system to use or how to access it, you can't do the work of the PMC VSR.	
Not knowing the systems has a rippling effect in terms of errors. Ultimately, it is the Veteran who will be affected.	
Technical Competencies	DISPLAY slide
VBA Applications (PMC VSR)	4. "Technical Competencies"
	REVIEW the technical competencies with the trainees.

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
 Objectives Identify the purpose of systems used to initiate, develop, and process claims. Locate systems used to initiate, develop, and process claims. Log in to systems used to initiate, develop, and process claims. Navigate Compensation and 	DISPLAY slide 5. "Objectives" PRESENT the objectives for the lesson. EXPLAIN that in this lesson trainees will learn the purpose of each system and how to locate and log in to each system. EXPLAIN that they will learn to navigate and perform system tasks in the context of processing claims later in the course.
Pension Knowledge Management portal.	
PHASE 1 Mandatory Training PHASE 2 PMC VSR Foundation PHASE 3 PMC VSR Resources PHASE 4 Introduction to Pension Management PHASE 5 Stages of Claim PHASE 6 Processing Claims Phase 4 Multiple Knowledge Check	DISPLAY slide 6. "Knowledge Check" EXPLAIN that this lesson will be tested in the Phase 3 Knowledge Check. REFER to the Master Course Map learning aid, Lessons by Phase section, to review the lessons included within the Knowledge Check.

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Pension Systems and Applications Job Aid	DISPLAY slide 7. "Pension Systems and Applications Job Aid"
 Instructions Access Pension Systems and Applications job aid, located in the VSR Assistant from the PMC VSR button Select Pension Systems and Applications Consider which systems you think you will use most frequently Time allowed: 10 minutes 	REFER trainees to the Pension Systems and Applications job aid, located in the VSR Assistant from the PMC VSR button. DIRECT trainees to read through the first column of the job aid as an introduction to the systems and how the PMC VSR uses the systems. ALLOW 10 minutes to complete. EXPLAIN that some of the systems are being phased out as newer systems are developed and phased in. For example, VBMS is replacing VETSNET. DISCUSS which systems trainees think they will
	use most frequently as PMC VSRs. Explain that the systems used depend on the type of claim being worked. Tell them which systems you use most frequently.
Question 1 Which system is used to update the corporate record?	DISPLAY slide 8. "Question 1" ASK a trainee which system is used to update the corporate record?

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Answer: SHARE • Allows employees to inquire	DISPLAY slide 9. "Answer: SHARE"
 against legacy information (e.g., BIRLS, BDN), as well as other agencies' information (e.g., SSA) Updates both legacy and corporate information with one transaction Is the starting point of MAP-D 	REVIEW the purpose of SHARE on the job aid or summarize in your own words.
	DESCRIBE the uses for SHARE listed in job aid, located in the VSR Assistant from the PMC VSR button.
	EXPLAIN that trainees will learn how to perform these tasks in the context of processing claims later in the course.
To the starting point of him.	DEMONSTRATE how to access and log in to the system using the steps on the job aid.
	DIRECT trainees to follow the steps on the job aid to log in to SHARE.
	RESOLVE any issues.
Question 2 Which system is used to view rating decision information and payment information?	DISPLAY slide 10. "Question 2"
	ASK a trainee which system is used to view rating decision information and payment information?

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Answer: VETSNET Suite of applications with data	DISPLAY slide 11. "Answer: VETSNET"
shared and passed between the applications to support end-to-end claims processing, customer service, and notification	DESCRIBE the purpose of VETSNET. DESCRIBE the current uses for VETSNET listed in job aid, located in the VSR Assistant from the PMC VSR button.
Facilitates the entire claims process	EXPLAIN that trainees will learn how to perform these tasks in the context of processing claims later in the course.
 Establish and develop Veteran claims 	DEMONSTRATE how to access and log in to the system using the steps on the job aid.
 Document rating decision, award, and notification letter 	DIRECT trainees to follow the steps on the job aid to log in to VETSNET.
o Transmit payment information to Treasury, accomplishing the necessary accounting	RESOLVE any issues.
Question 3 Which system in development will eventually replace VETSNET?	DISPLAY slide 12. "Question 3"
	ASK a trainee which system in development will eventually replace VETSNET?

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Answer: VBMS The Veterans Benefits	DISPLAY slide 13. "Answer: VBMS"
 Management System (VBMS) A business transformation initiative supported by technology and designed to improve VBA service delivery Interdependent with the VETSNET Legacy system (VETSNET will be retired when VBMS is complete) 	REVIEW the purpose of VBMS on the job aid or summarize in your own words.
	EXPLAIN how VBMS differs from VETSNET.
	DESCRIBE the uses for VBMS listed in job aid, located in the VSR Assistant from the PMC VSR button.
	EXPLAIN that trainees will learn how to perform these tasks in the context of processing claims later in the course.
	DEMONSTRATE how to access and log in to the system using the steps on the job aid.
	DIRECT trainees to follow the steps on the job aid to log in to VBMS.
	RESOLVE any issues.
VBMS-A The Veterans Benefits	DISPLAY slide 14. "VBMS-A"
Management System Awards (VBMS-A) generates awards for beneficiaries.	EXPLAIN the relationship of VBMS-A to VBMS. VBMS-A is a sub-system of VBMS used to view running awards and process new awards.
	EXPLAIN that the award is processed once the PMC VSR determines the claimant's eligibility for the benefit.
	DESCRIBE the uses for VBMS-A listed in job aid, located in the VSR Assistant from the PMC VSR button.
	EXPLAIN that trainees will learn how to perform these tasks in the context of processing claims later in the course.

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Question 4 Which system is used for preparing development letters?	DISPLAY slide 15. "Question 4" ASK a trainee which system is used for preparing development letters?
Answer: MAP-D	DI SPLAY slide 16. "Answer: MAP-D"
Modern Awards Processing Development (MAP-D): • Supports development of	DEFINE development in the context of claims processing. Development is the part of the process
 claims, and workflow tracking Provides single processing development capability 	where the PMC VSR collects the required information to make a determination about eligibility.
Addresses complete claims development, claims status, and case management using the best features of existing applications	REVIEW the purpose of MAP-D on the job aid, located in the VSR Assistant from the PMC VSR button, or summarize in your own words.
	DESCRIBE the uses for MAP-D listed in job aid, located in the VSR Assistant from the PMC VSR button.
Provides access to those applications that support the claims development process including COVERS and PIES	EXPLAIN that trainees will learn how to perform these tasks in the context of processing claims later in the course.
Offers the capability to view notes left by VA employees	DEMONSTRATE how to access and log in to the system using the steps on the job aid.
and add notes that can be specific to claims or general	DIRECT trainees to follow the steps on the job aid to log in to MAP-D.
notes about the claimant and/or beneficiary	RESOLVE any issues.

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Question 5 Which system is used for preparing other forms of correspondence with the claimant?	DISPLAY slide 17. "Question 5" ASK a trainee which system is used for preparing other forms of correspondence with the claimant?
Answer: PCGL The Personal Computer Generated Letters (PCGL) system allows the PMC VSR to generate letters in two modes. • Free-form mode allows you to type a letter "from scratch" or select individual paragraphs in putting together a letter. • Predefined letters minimize user input and provide letter generation capabilities accessing BDN, VETSNET, and/or VBMS data.	DISPLAY slide 18. "Answer: PCGL" REVIEW the purpose of PCGL on the job aid or summarize in your own words. DESCRIBE the uses for PCGL listed in job aid, located in the VSR Assistant from the PMC VSR button. EXPLAIN that trainees will learn how to perform these tasks in the context of processing claims later in the course. DEMONSTRATE how to access and log in to the system using the steps on the job aid. DIRECT trainees to follow the steps on the job aid to log in to PCGL. RESOLVE any issues.
Question 6 Which system provides PMC VSR access to a Veteran's electronic claims folder (e-folder) and eliminates the need to locate the paper file?	DI SPLAY slide 19. "Question" ASK a trainee which system provides PMC VSR access to a Veteran's electronic claims folder and eliminates the need to locate the paper file?

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Answer: VVA Virtual VA (VVA) • Stores the images of original	DISPLAY slide 20. "Answer: VVA" REVIEW the purpose of VVA on the job aid, located in the VSR Assistant from the PMC VSR
documentation and facilitates the gathering of documents such as Veterans' applications, awards, SSA records, medical	button, or summarize in your own words. DESCRIBE the uses for VVA listed in job aid.
 and dependency records Provides access to a Veteran's e-folder and eliminates the 	these tasks in the context of processing claims later in the course. DEMONSTRATE how to access and log in to the
 need to locate the paper files Saves time for the claimant and/or beneficiary 	system using the steps on the job aid. DIRECT trainees to follow the steps on the job aid to log in to VVA.
	RESOLVE any issues.
Question 7 Which system is used to track the	DISPLAY slide 21. "Question 7"
location of paper folders within and between offices?	2
	ASK a trainee which system is used to track the location of paper folders within and between offices?

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Answer: COVERS Control of Veterans Records System (COVERS) Tracks the location of paper folders within, and between offices	DISPLAY slide 22. "Answer: COVERS"
	REVIEW the purpose of COVERS on the job aid, located in the VSR Assistant from the PMC VSR button, or summarize in your own words.
	DESCRIBE the uses for COVERS listed in job aid.
Is updated each time a folder is received at a location	EXPLAIN that trainees will learn how to perform these tasks in the context of processing claims later in the course.
Tells you if the claims folder has been electronically uploaded and a VBMS folder exists	DEMONSTRATE how to access and log in to the system using the steps on the job aid.
	DIRECT trainees to follow the steps on the job aid to log in to COVERS.
	RESOLVE any issues.
Question 8 Which system is used to review a claimant's payment and accounting information?	DISPLAY slide 23. "Question 8"
	ASK a trainee which system is used to review a claimant's payment and accounting information?

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Answer: FAS Finance and Accounting System	DISPLAY slide 24. "Answer: FAS"
(FAS)Supports generation and audit	REVIEW the purpose of FAS on the job aid or summarize in your own words.
of benefit payments	DESCRIBE the uses for FAS listed in job aid,
Provides online transaction processing, online audit	located in the VSR Assistant from the PMC VSR button.
functions, and automated manual review processes	EXPLAIN that trainees will learn how to perform these tasks in the context of processing claims
 Provides access to payments, accountable balance, deductions, receivables, and all transactions 	later in the course. DEMONSTRATE how to access and log in to the
	system using the steps on the job aid.
	DIRECT trainees to follow the steps on the job aid to log in to FAS.
	RESOLVE any issues.
Question 9 Which systems are used to verify service dates and request service treatment records?	DISPLAY slide 25. "Question 9"
	23. Question 9
	ASK a trainee which systems are used to verify service dates and request service treatment records?

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
 Answer: PIES and DPRIS Personnel Information Exchange System (PIES) and Defense Personnel Records Information Retrieval System (DPRIS) are used to request personnel records DPRIS is used for Veterans discharged after specific dates (see job aid, located in the VSR Assistant from the PMC VSR button) 	DISPLAY slide 26. "Answer: PIES and DPRIS" REVIEW the purpose of PIES and DPRIS on the job aid or summarize in your own words. DESCRIBE the uses for PIES and DPRIS listed in job aid. EXPLAIN that trainees will learn about the uses of PIES and DPRIS in the context of processing claims later in the course. DEMONSTRATE how to access and log in to PIES using the steps on the job aid. DIRECT trainees to follow the steps on the job aid to log in to PIES. RESOLVE any issues. EXPLAIN that a designated user at each station, often referred to as a super user, has responsibility for accessing information in DPRIS.
Question 10 Which system is used to view the status of an appeals case?	DISPLAY slide 27. "Question 10" ASK a trainee which system is used to view the status of an appeals case?

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Answer: VACOLS Veterans Appeals Control System (VACOLS) allows personnel to view, update, and track the status of appeals cases submitted to Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA).	DISPLAY slide 28. "Answer: VACOLS"
	REVIEW the purpose of VACOLS on the job aid or summarize in your own words.
	DESCRIBE the uses for VACOLS listed in job aid.
	EXPLAIN that trainees will learn how to perform these tasks in the context of processing claims later in the course.
	DEMONSTRATE how to access and log in to the system using the steps on the job aid.
	DIRECT trainees to follow the steps on the job aid to log in to VACOLS.
	RESOLVE any issues.
Question 11 Which system is used to access medical information about beneficiaries who have received care by a Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC)?	DISPLAY slide 29. "Question 11" ASK a trainee which system is used to access medical information about beneficiaries who have received care by a Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC)?

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Answer: CAPRI Compensation and Pension Records Interchange (CAPRI) • Acts as a bridge between VBA and Veterans Health Administration (VHA) information systems • Facilitates collecting medical information for a rating	DISPLAY slide 30. "Answer: CAPRI"
	REVIEW the purpose of CAPRI on the job aid or summarize in your own words.
	DESCRIBE the uses for CAPRI listed in job aid.
	EXPLAIN that trainees will learn about the uses of CAPRI in the context of processing claims later in the course.
	DEMONSTRATE how to access and log in to CAPRI using the steps on the job aid.
	RESOLVE any issues.
	EXPLAIN that at some stations, designated users have responsibility for accessing information in CAPRI.
User Guides User guides for the systems are available from the VBA intranet at vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/21/index.htm	DI SPLAY slide 31. "User Guides"
	Si. Oser Guides
	REFER trainees to the location for the user guides on the VBA intranet at http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/21/index.htm
	REMIND the trainees they learned how to use the VBA intranet in an earlier lesson.

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
CPKM Video Instructions:	DISPLAY slide 32. "CPKM Video"
 Launch TMS Select Introduction to Compensation and Pension Knowledge 	REVIEW the purpose of CPKM on the job aid, located in the VSR Assistant from the PMC VSR button, or summarize in your own words.
	DESCRIBE the uses for CPKM listed in job aid.
Management (CPKM) Portal	EXPLAIN that trainees will be introduced to CPKM with a video in TMS.
o Watch the video	DIRECT trainees to launch TMS, locate TMS# 3971406, and watch the video.
o Use the steps in the job aid to access CPKM	DIRECT trainees to follow the steps on the job aid to log in to CPKM.
Time allowed: 15 minutes	RESOLVE any issues.
Summary • Purpose	DI SPLAY slide 33. "Summary"
LocationAccess	REVIEW the purpose of this lesson was to introduce the purpose of each system and how to find each system and then provide the opportunity log in to each system.
	REMIND trainees that they will learn to navigate and perform tasks in the systems later in the course in the context of processing claims and may continue to use the job aid throughout the training when learning to perform the tasks.
Questions?	DISPLAY slide 34. "Questions?"
	ASK trainees if they have any questions or concerns regarding providing benefit information. Use this time to clear up any confusion or misconceptions about the information presented.

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
What's Next? Phase 3: PMC VSR Resources Knowledge Check Preparation	DISPLAY slide 35. "What's Next" DISCUSS the upcoming Knowledge Check
	preparation with trainees.
	EMPHASIZE that they will review all previous lessons, job aids, handouts, and references before taking the Knowledge Check.