

PENSION AND FIDUCIARY SERVICE

PMC VSR Advanced Core Course

Phase 5: Stages of a Claim

Part 1: Determine Eligibility

Lesson 3: Flash, Expedited (Priority), Previous, Dual or Reopened/New Claims

Lesson Plan

October 28, 2016 Version 1.0

Flash, Expedited (Priority), Previous, Dual or Reopened/New Claims

Lesson Overview

Topic	Description
Time Estimate:	1.5 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 prepare PMC VSRs to identify special claims that should be expedited (priority) or have a flash and those that are previous claims or part of a dual claim.
Prerequisite Training Requirements:	Prior to taking the Flash, Expedited (Priority), Previous, Dual or Reopened/New Claims lesson, trainees must complete PMC VSR Core Course Phases 1–4, and Phase 5, Part 1, lessons 1–2. (Refer to the Master Course Map learning aid for a list of lessons.)
Target Audience:	This lesson is for entry level PMC VSRs.
Lesson References:	 Master Course Map learning aid M21-1 III.ii.1.D (Claims That Require Priority Processing) M21-1 III.iii.1.D.1.b (Claimant Flashes) M21-1 II.iv.2.B.3.d (New and Material Evidence) M21-1 I.5.A.2.b (Overview of the Appeal Process) Pension Systems and Applications job aid
Knowledge Check:	Phase 5: Stages of a claim, Part 1(a): Initial Screening and Claims Establishment Knowledge Check
Technical Competencies:	 Program Benefits and Eligibility (PMC VSR) Processing Claims (PMC VSR) VBA Applications (PMC VSR)

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Topic	Description
Lesson	Confirm the special claim types
Objectives:	Check whether an original claim was previously established
	Check whether the original claim had a prior decision
	Check whether evidence is new and material evidence
	Determine if an appeal is pending
What You	Lesson plan
Need:	Master Course Map learning aid
	• Slides
	• Projector
	Access to VBA Intranet
	Pen and paper or access to a whiteboard
	Access to the following systems:
	o SHARE
	o MAP-D
	o VBMS
	o VACOLS
	Access to the Pension Systems and Applications job aid from VSR Assistant
	Claim 1 (pmc_vsr_case_3) that meets priority processing criteria
	Claim 2 (pmc_vsr_case_2) a common claim that does not meets priority processing criteria.
	Claim 3 (pmc_vsr_excerpt_a) new and material evidence:
	 Written and sworn testimony of the claimant or witnesses to an event
	Lay statement from family member of friend of claimant
	o Medical nexus opinion with supporting rationale
	Claim 4 (pmc_vsr_excerpt_b) decision to deny pension benefits and Notice of disagreement. This is for demonstrating a pending appeal.

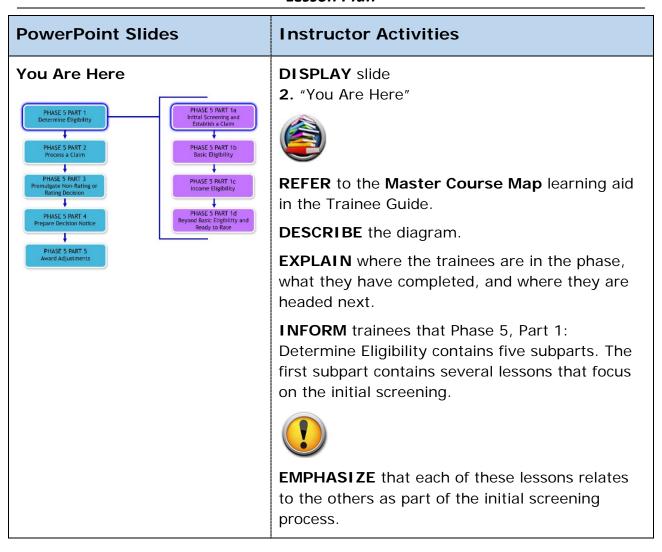
Topic	Description
	Claim 5 (pmc_vsr_excerpt_c) provide a dual claim, complete VA Form 21-526 with comp and pension claim.
	 Claim 6 (pmc_vsr_excerpt_d) new claim, include original application with date stamp, a denial letter, and new evidence provided over a year later.

Instructor Notes

This lesson is a continuation of the initial screening process. This lesson provides trainees with the next steps in reviewing the work of the claims assistant by confirming and correcting any issues found with types of claims that are considered priority/special claims.

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Lesson 3: Flash, Expedited (Priority), Previous, Dual or Reopened/New Claims	DISPLAY slide 1. "Lesson 3: Flash, Expedited (Priority), Previous, Dual or Reopened/New Claims"
	INTRODUCE yourself as the instructor. INTRODUCE the lesson.

Lesson 3: Flash, Expedited (Priority), Previous, Dual or Reopened/New Claims
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PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Initial Screening	DISPLAY slide 3. "Initial Screening"
Complete or Incomplete Applications for Benefits	EXPLAIN to the trainees that during the initial
Fully Developed Claims	screening process, the PMC VSR verifies whether the Claims Assistant has processed the initial
Flash, Expedited (Priority), Previous, Reopened and Dual Claims	screening correctly and evaluates other aspects of the claim.
Date of Claim	INFORM trainees that this lesson will focus on determining if a claim will need to be processed
Validate POA	as special (priority) claim.
End Product CodesIntroduction to Old Law and Section 306 Pension	REMIND trainees that they have learned how to perform the following parts of the initial screening:
Section 300 Fermion	Determine whether the application for benefits is complete or incomplete.
	Determine if a claim can be processed as a fully developed claim (FDC).
What Do You Do?	DISPLAY slide
On November 17, 2015, the St. Paul PMC received a VA Form 21-527 EZ application for Service-Connected (SC) pension	4. "What Do You Do?" REVIEW the scenario presented in presentation
benefits for Veteran Delinda Wright. Ms. Wright lives in Chaska, MN, which is in the jurisdiction. Ms. Wright can be properly identified in SHARE. All	ASK what about the scenario indicates that the claim may be priority and require special processing?
of the information on the	The application form used is for a FDC.
application has been completed and the application has been	 VA Form 21P-527EZ dated APR 2016 (Application for Pension)
signed. There is a flash on the application.	There is a flash on the FDC application, which indicates expedited (priority) handling.
	FDC claims are considered priority claims and are flashed for expedited handling.

Lesson 3: Flash, Expedited (Priority), Previous, Dual or Reopened/New Claims
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PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
 Technical Competencies Program Benefits and Eligibility (PMC VSR) Processing Claims (PMC VSR) VBA Applications (PMC VSR) 	DISPLAY slide 5. "Technical Competencies" REVIEW technical competencies with trainees.
 Lesson Objectives Confirm the special claim types. Check whether an original claim was previously established. Check whether the original claim had a prior decision. Check whether evidence is new and material evidence. Determine if an appeal is pending. 	DISPLAY slide 6. "Lesson Objectives" PRESENT the objectives for the lesson.
Knowledge Check PHASE 5 PART 1a Initial Screening and Establishing a Claim Phase 5 Part 1a Knowledge Check PHASE 5 PART 1b Basic Eligibility Phase 5 Part 1b Knowledge Check Phase 5 Part 1c Income Eligibility Phase 5 Part 1d Knowledge Check Phase 5 Part 1d Knowledge Check	DISPLAY slide 7. "Knowledge Check" EXPLAIN that a Knowledge Check will be given at the end of Phase 5, Part 1(a), that covers all material learned in Phase 5, Part 1(a). 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
 Claims That Require Priority Processing Part of reviewing the work of the Claims Assistant requires checking whether the claim is a special claim that requires priority processing. Special claims are flashed through the Intake Processing Center (IPC) and indicated in MAP-D, SHARE, and VBMS. If you discover a claim that is not flagged through IPC, but should be, flag or correct the claim for special processing. 	 B. "Claims That Require Priority Processing" REFER trainees to CPKM and have them locate and read the following sections: M21-1 III.ii.1.D (Claims That Require Priority Processing) Topics 1-6 M21-1 III.iii.1.D.1.b (Claimant Flashes) INSTRUCT the trainees that they will be given 10 minutes to review each topic. When time is up, choose a trainee to summarize each of the sections listed. Choose a different trainee for each topic/section. DISCUSS and ensure understanding of the special types of claims and claimant flashes.
Flash a Claim • MAP-D • SHARE • VBMS	DISPLAY slide 9. "Flash a Claim" EXPLAIN that if a claim was flashed incorrectly, or a flash is missing, the PMC VSR will have to flash the claim. DEMONSTRATE how to flash a claim in MAP-D. DEMONSTRATE how to flash a claim in SHARE. DEMONSTRATE how to flash a claim in VBMS. REMIND trainees to use the Pension Systems and Applications job aid for a refresher of each system and its purpose.

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Group Practice Exercise— Does the Claim Require Priority Processing?	DI SPLAY slide 10. "Group Practice Exercise—Does the Claim Require Priority Processing?"
• Instructions:	DIVIDE trainees into two groups.
 Divide trainees into two groups. 	ASSIGN each group an example claim:Group 1: Claim 1
 Each group will receive claim information: 	Group 2: Claim 2
■ Group 1: Claim 1	
■ Group 2: Claim 2	
 Access CPKM to use the M21-1 to complete the exercise. 	REFER trainees to CPKM and have them locate and read the following section: M21-1 III.ii.1.D (Claims That Require Priority Processing)
 Provide each group with a demo claim. 	INSTRUCT trainees to review the types of claims that require priority processing. Based on the information given in the manual, request that
o Have each group review	each group determine:
the claim and determine if the claim requires priority processing.	If the claim is a special claim that requires priority processing
Time allowed: 5 min.	If it is considered a special claim, why the claim requires priority processing
Group Practice Exercise— Does the Claim Require Priority Processing? Answers	DISPLAY slide 11. "Group Practice Exercise—Does the Claim Require Priority Processing? Answers"
Answers provided by instructor based on example claims selected.	REVIEW with trainees the types of special claims listed in M21-1 III.ii.1.D (Claims That Require Priority Processing).
	DISCUSS each claim and the attributes that make it a special claim or not a special claim, and discuss why the claim would or would not require priority processing.

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PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Reviewing Other Types of Claims	DISPLAY slide 12. "Reviewing Other Types of Claims"
 Along with priority claims, you will also review the following types of claims: Previous claim Dual claim (rare) Reopened/new claim These claims involve reviewing various systems/applications, depending on the information needed. 	 INTRODUCE trainees the other types of claims that they will review from the Claims Assistant: Previous claim Dual claim Reopened/new claim EXPLAIN briefly the claim types listed and explain that the trainees will learn about these claim types in more detail in a later lesson.

PowerPoint Slides

Original Claim was Previously Established (Previous Claim)

- SHARE
 - In the Corporate screen, review the information found in Claims and Denial and/or Award and Ratings to check if an original end product (EP) was previously processed or if the beneficiary is currently receiving benefits.
- BIRLS
 - Review the Inactive Comp and Pension (ICP) screen for Veteran awards.
- VBMS
 - Review VBMS to check if the claim was previously submitted or information was previously submitted.

Instructor Activities

DISPLAY slide

13. "Original Claim was Previously Established"



DEMONSTRATE in SHARE where the trainees would look to check if an original claim was previously established:

- Corporate screen
 - o Claims and Denials
 - o Awards
 - o Ratings

EXPLAIN that the trainees will check to see if an original EP was previously processed or if the beneficiary is currently receiving benefits.



DEMONSTRATE in BIRLS where the trainees would look to check if an original claim was previously established:

- ICP screen
 - Veteran awards



DEMONSTRATE in VBMS where the trainees would check to see if an original claim was previously established:

 Search VBMS to check if the claim was previously submitted or if information pertaining to the claim was previously submitted

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Original Claim Had Prior Decision (Previous Claim)	DISPLAY slide 14. "Original Claim Had Prior Decision"
To check if an original claim had a prior decision:	DEMO
 Review the claims folder (if paper). 	DEMONSTRATE in VBMS where the trainees would check to see if an original claim had a
 Look for a notification letter, award print, or claim information in VBMS. 	prior decision: • Notification letter
 Review the Corporate screen in SHARE under Claims and Denials or Awards. 	Award Print
7.11.5.	DEMONSTRATE in SHARE where the trainees would look to check if an original claim had a prior decision:
	Corporate screen
	o Claims and Denials
	o Awards

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Dual Claims	DISPLAY slide
Dual claims are claims that are developed for pension and compensation benefits.	15. "Dual Claims"
Dual claims are indicated in SHARE or VBMS.	DEMONSTRATE in VBMS where the trainees would find indications that a claim is a dual claim.
	DEMO
	DEMONSTRATE in SHARE where the trainees would find indications that a claim is a dual claim.
	EXPLAIN that dual claims are generally handled by Compensation.

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
New and Material Evidence (Reopened or New Claim) • For a reopened/new claim, check for new and material evidence.	DISPLAY slide 16. "New and Material Evidence (Reopened or New Claim)"
 Review evidence to ensure it is not a duplication of information already on record, and refer for a rating if applicable. 	REFER to M21-1 II.iv.2.B.3.d (New and Material Evidence) for the definition of new and material evidence. Choose a trainee to read the definition out loud.
	SHOW examples of new and material evidence using Claim 3:
	Written and sworn testimony of the claimant or witnesses to an event
	Lay statement from a friend of family member
	Medical nexus opinion with supporting rationale
	DEMO
	DEMONSTRATE where to check for new and material evidence in:
	• SHARE
	MAP-D
	• VVA
	• VBMS

PowerPoint Slides Instructor Activities An Appeal Is Pending **DISPLAY** slide 17. "An Appeal is Pending" · Check if an appeal is pending for a claim by: o Reviewing SHARE for an EP 170 code (series pending) **DEMONSTRATE** in SHARE using example claim o Checking VACOLS information where the trainees would find the EP 170 code indicating an appeal is pending. o Reviewing information associated with claim in VVA or VBMS **DEMONSTRATE** in VACOLS where the trainees would find information regarding a pending appeal for a claim. **DEMONSTRATE** in VVA and VBMS where the trainees would find information regarding a pending appeal for a claim. **REFER** to M21-1 I.5.A.2.b (Overview of the Appeal Process) for an overview of the appeal process and the Pension Systems and

VACOLS.

Applications job aid for more information in

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Practice Exercise—Claim 4, 5, and 6	DI SPLAY slide 18. "Practice Exercise— Claim 4, 5, and 6"
Instructions:	DIVIDE trainees into three groups.
 Divide trainees into three groups. 	ASSIGN each group an example claim:Group 1: Claim 4
Each group will receive claim information:	Group 2: Claim 5
■ Group 1: Claim 4	Group 3: Claim 6
■ Group 2: Claim 5	DIRECT trainees to answer the questions in the worksheet for each claim.
■ Group 3: Claim 6	
 Instruct each group to perform a review on the 	
claim, checking if the claim is a previous claim, dual claim, new/reopened claim, and if the claim has an appeal pending.	REFER to the M21-1 for guidance while reviewing the claim and the Pension Systems and Applications job aid.
 Select one person in each group to present their findings. 	
Time allowed: 10 min.	

Practice Special Claims Worksheet

For each claim, answer the questions below. Include references to the M21-1 and sections of the claim in your explanations.

Claim 4

- 1. Is the claim a previously established claim?
- o Answers provided by instructor based on example claims used.
- 2. Is the claim a dual claim?
- o Answers provided by instructor based on example claims used.

- 3. Does the claim contain new and material evidence indicating it is a new/reopened claim?
- o Answers provided by instructor based on example claims used.
- 4. Does the claim information indicate that an appeal is pending?
- o Answers provided by instructor based on example claims used.

Claim 5

- 1. Is the claim a previously established claim?
- o Answers provided by instructor based on example claims used.
- 2. Is the claim a dual claim?
- o Answers provided by instructor based on example claims used.
- 3. Does the claim contain new and material evidence indicating it is a new/reopened claim?
- o Answers provided by instructor based on example claims used.
- 4. Does the claim information indicate that an appeal was pending?
- o Answers provided by instructor based on example claims used.

Claim 6

- 1. Is the claim a previously established claim?
- o Answers provided by instructor based on example claims used.
- 2. Is the claim a dual claim?
- o Answers provided by instructor based on example claims used.
- 3. Does the claim contain new and material evidence indicating it is a new/reopened claim?

- o Answers provided by instructor based on example claims used.
- 4. Does the claim information indicate that an appeal is pending?
- o Answers provided by instructor based on example claims used.

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
Practice Exercise—Demo Claim Answers	DI SPLAY slide 19. "Practice Exercise—Demo Claim Answers"
Is the claim a previously established claim?	INSTRUCT a trainee from each group to present their findings on Claim 4, 5, and 6.
 Answers provided by instructor based on example claims used. 	PROVIDE any clarification or explanation needed based on the findings for each group.
Is the claim a dual claim?	
 Answers provided by instructor based on example claims used. 	ASK the trainees if they have any questions about Claim 4, 5, and 6. Focus on the conclusions that were reached for each claim.
Does the claim contain new and material evidence indicating it was a new/reopened claim?	were reached for each claim.
 Answers provided by instructor based on example claims used. 	
Does the claim information indicate that an appeal was pending?	
 Answers provided by instructor based on example claims used. 	
Lesson Summary	DISPLAY slide
Key concepts of this lesson:	20. "Lesson Summary"
Confirm the special claim	REVIEW the key concepts of this lesson:

PowerPoint Slides	Instructor Activities
types.	Confirm the special claim types.
Correct the special claim types.	Correct the special claim types.
Check whether an original claim was previously established.	Check whether an original claim was previously established.
 Check whether the original claim had a prior decision. 	Check whether the original claim had a prior decision.
 Check whether evidence is new and material evidence. 	Check whether evidence is new and material evidence.
	 ASK trainees if there are any concepts that are unclear or may need further review. REMIND trainees to use and review the following sections of the M21-1: M21-1 III.ii.1.D (Claims That Require Priority Processing) M21-1 III.iii.1.D.1.b (Claimant Flashes)
	 M21-1 II.iv.2.B.3.d (New and Material Evidence) M21-1 I.5.A.2.b (Overview of the Appeal Process)
What's NextPhase 5, Part 1, Lesson 4: Date of Claim	DISPLAY slide 22. "What's Next" DISCUSS the upcoming lesson with trainees.
Review of all job aids and references provided in this lesson.	EMPHASIZE that they review all previous lessons, job aids, and references if needed.