

# MEMORANDUM

Date: 12/19/2022

FROM: Compensation Service

TO: Veteran Service Centers (VSCs)

SUBJECT: Removal of Routine Future Examination (RFE) Date from Rating

## **Purpose**

One or more Routine Future Examination (RFE) diaries from the record have been cancelled under the VBA Central Office RFE Initiative. This was based on Policy Letter (PL) 21-01, Updated Guidance on Routine Future Examinations. This PL instructed claims processors to no longer establish or require routine future examinations (RFEs) unless it was mandated by a provision found in 38 CFR Part 4 or it is necessary to reduce an evaluation in accordance with 38 CFR 3.344, Stabilization of disability evaluations. However, a review examination may be subsequently authorized if the rating activity finds a compelling reason under the above provisions. Otherwise, if a finding of permanent and total status under 38 CFR 3.340 is necessary based on this action, the rating activity will make the appropriate decision.

Diagnostic Codes Affected:

**9411**

## **Background**

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) released Report #17-04966-201, Unwarranted Medical Reexaminations for Disability Benefits to the VBA on July 17, 2018. The OIG found that VBA employees did not consistently follow policy to request reexaminations only when necessary, which resulted in undue hardship for Veterans, excessive work for VA personnel, and waste of VA appropriated funds. VBA issued Policy Letter (PL) 21-01, Updated Guidance on Routine Future Examinations, on October 7, 2021 to address the OIG report findings.