

Veterans Benefits Administration



*Compensation
Service*

September 2017

Pre-Discharge Redesign



Objectives

- Distinguish Pre-Discharge Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) and excluded BDD claims
- Recognize end products (EP) required to track claims received prior to discharge
- Identify how to process Pre-Discharge BDD examination requests



References

- M21-1, Part III, Subpart i, 2.A, General Information on Pre-Discharge Claims
- M21-1, Part III, Subpart i, 2.B, Division of Responsibilities for Processing Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) and BDD Excluded Claims



Pre-Discharge Redesign Introduction

Pre-Discharge Claims have undergone a redesign which has adjusted the process for adjudicating claims that are received prior to a Servicemember's (SM) discharge from active duty. The purpose of this training is to inform the audience of the major changes.



Termination of the Quick Start (QS) Program

Effective October 1, 2017, the Quick Start (QS) program will be discontinued. Claims received within 180 days prior to discharge will be identified as BDD claims or excluded BDD claims.

Days prior to separation claim is submitted	90-180 days	1-89 days
Claim identity	BDD	BDD Excluded



Claims received prior October 1, 2017

The following claims received from SMs prior to October 1, 2017, must be processed according to prior BDD and QS procedures:

- with 89 to 1 day remaining on active duty, or
- Unavailable for examination

For prior BDD and QS procedures, please see Historical M21-1, III.i.2.A and B.



To Qualify for the BDD Program....

the service member must

Have a known date of discharge	Be 180 days to 90 days from discharge at the time of filing	Be available for examination between the 10th through 45th day from the receipt of claim. M21-1, III.i.1.A.1.d	Provide a copy of the service treatment records (STRs) from their current period of service	Submit the claim on a prescribed form listed in M21-1, III.i.2.A.1.c
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Note: the claim must **not** be excluded from VBMS processing.



Additional Reasons for Exclusion from BDD Program

Claims received from SMs with 89 days to 1 day remaining on active duty

Additional conditions added with less than 90 days remaining on active duty

Service member did not provide a copy of STRs for the current period of service with less than 90 days remaining on active duty

Claims requiring a character of discharge (COD) determination

SM is unable to report for examinations as provided in M21-1, Part III, Subpart i.2.A.1.d, subject to exceptions in that block



Notification of BDD Exclusion

If a claim is excluded from the BDD program, the following actions must be taken:

- Generate the BDD exclusion letter using the Letter Creator tool
- Select the appropriate reason for not meeting the BDD requirements, and
- Change the EP to the proper non-BDD EP and claim label.

This is the responsibility of whomever is processing the claim and identifies it as an excluded BDD claim. However, if a claim processor notices that the BDD exclusion letter has not been provided to the claimant, it is their responsibility to provide notification.



Jurisdiction of Excluded BDD Claims

The Regional Office of jurisdiction (ROJ) will be responsible for processing pre-separation claims that are excluded from the BDD program.

The SM can elect to have the claim processed under the Fully Developed Claim (FDC) program, the standard VA claims process, or any other available program unless otherwise noted.



Scenario

- Servicemember submits a claim for compensation on February 12, 2018, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. Her release from active duty date is July 30, 2018. The Servicemember annotates she will be on Permissive Temporary Duty (TDY) status in Charleston SC effective February 26, 2018 – April 13, 2018. Is this claim BDD eligible, if not, why?
- **No! This claim is BDD excluded as the Servicemember is not available to report for examinations within the 10th through 45th day from the date the claim was received per M21-1, Part III, Subpart i.2.A.1.d.**

BDD Claim Label and EP



Third digit modifiers for Pre-Discharge claims are terminated. Once all development actions are completed, the diary 336 EP for a BDD claim will be changed to the proper EP and claim label as shown in the table below:

Claim Type	BDD EP – Claim Label
Original	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 110 – BDD-Initial, or• 010 – BDD-Initial 8+ issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New SC• Reopened, or• Increased evaluation	020 – BDD-Supplemental



Excluded BDD Claim Label and EP

When initially establishing an excluded BDD claim, the station of origination (SOO) must use EPs 010, 110, or 020 as appropriate as provided to the claim type (original <8 issues, original 8+ issues, new, increase, reopen) and attach an appropriate claim label.

Important: Excluded BDD claims must also be established as a diary EP in VBMS. The process is provided in M21-1, III.i.2.A.2.a.



Excluded BDD Claim w/ Diary 337 EP

Pre-Discharge claims received via eBenefits or submitted electronically by the SM's VSO will automatically establish the EP and claim label 337 – *Quick Start* for SMs with less than 90 days remaining on active duty.

The EP 337 must be changed to the appropriate rating EP upon receipt for the processing as BDD-excluded claims.



Concurrent EPs

Additional contentions submitted by BDD claimants when there are less than 90 days remaining on active duty at the time the additional contentions are submitted will be separately processed as BDD Excluded claims. These claims will be established as indicated by the table below:

If the pending BDD EP is an...	Then establish...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 110 – BDD-Initial, or• 010 – BDD-Initial 8+ issues	Establish an EP 020 with the appropriate claim label.
020 – BDD-Supplemental	Establish an EP 021 with the appropriate claim label.



Clarification on Concurrent EPs

- It is important to note that excluded BDD claims must also be established as a diary EP.
- Additional contentions that are submitted by BDD claimants when there are 90 or more days remaining on active duty at the time the claim for the additional contention is submitted will be associated with the pending BDD diary 336 EP or proper rating EP (110, 010, or 020). Concurrent rating EPs are only allowed if there are contentions that qualify for BDD program and contentions that are excluded from BDD program.



Clarification on BDD Examinations

To determine if a contract or Veterans Health Administration (VHA) examination is needed, you are required to utilize the Examination Request Routing Assistance (ERRA).

NOTE: An Separation Health Assessment (SHA) examination should be requested for all BDD claimants still on active duty at the time of the examination request along with any necessary specialist examinations.



Clarification on Follow-up of BDD Examinations

In order to ensure timely processing of BDD claims, MSCs or other BDD claims processors must ensure that requested examinations are not rejected/cancelled. If the exam is rejected or cancelled, the MSC or other BDD claims processor must review and follow the direction provided in the table on the next slide:



Clarification on Follow-up of BDD Examinations

If the examination cancellation is due to...	Then...
The SM's failure to adhere to BDD requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PIF change the pending EP to a non BDD rating EP,• Enter a note in VBMS indicating the SM was removed from BDD program, and• continue processing the claim as a BDD excluded claim
A reason outside of the control of SM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take the necessary steps to submit a new exam request, and• Continue processing the claims as a BDD claim



Questions

