RESCISSION OF VHA MANUAL M-2, PART I, CHAPTER 8, SPECIAL DIAGNOSTIC STUDIES AND EXAMINATIONS FOR ADJUDICATIVE PURPOSES

1. By direction of the Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Manual M-2, Clinical Affairs, Part I, Chapter 8, Special Diagnostic Studies and Examinations for Adjudicative Purposes, dated June 22, 1983, is rescinded.

2. Chapter 8 discusses procedures for requests for examination and observation. The information is outdated and has been incorporated Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) procedure manual M21-1, Part III, Subpart iv, Chapter 3, Section A. This section is part of the procedure manual chapter addressing compensation and pension disability examination requests processes and procedures for VA disability benefit claims. The section noted related to hospital observation states: “To properly visualize and evaluate complex disability issues the rating activity may request a period of hospitalization for observation and examination.” VBA procedure manual M21-1 can be accessed through http://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov. VHA Directive 1046, Disability Examinations, April 23, 2014, defines VHA policy for administering the disability examination program, and provides guidance on responding to disability examination requests including those for observation and examination. As the newer guidance described here provides the same information as the M-2 provision but in conjunction with updated processes and procedures, the M-2 provision is unnecessary.

3. All inquiries concerning this action need to be addressed to the Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) (10NC8) at 202-461-6699.

4. This VHA Notice will be archived on September 30, 2017. However, the rescission information remains in effect.

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