

Department of Veterans Affairs Retrospective Review Plan Report

September 10, 2012

Agency/ Admin	RIN/OMB Control No.	Title of Initiative/ Rule/ICR	Brief Description	Actual or Target Completion Date	Anticipated savings in costs and/or information collection burdens, together with any anticipated changes in benefits (please quantify, to the extent feasible, and also specify baseline, time horizon, and affected groups)	Progress updates and anticipated accomplish- ments	Notes
Office of the General Counsel	2900-AO13, proposed rule	VA Compensation and Pension Regulation Rewrite Project	VA has reorganized and rewritten its compensation and pension regulations in a logical, user-friendly format. The intent of the Rewrite Project is to assist veterans, their representatives, and VA staff in locating and understanding these regulations. The new regulations will be placed in part 5 of 38 CFR, and become effective for claims	TBD. VA's leadership is considering the best way to integrate the Regulation Rewrite Project with VA's current priority effort to reduce and eliminate the claims backlog. VA has already published 20 proposed rules and received public comments.	None. The new part 5 will not alter the benefits VA provides nor alter VA claims procedures. By reorganizing and redrafting these regulations they will become much easier to find, read, understand, and apply. The new reorganization and redrafting should reduce the amount of time it takes to adjudicate VA	Pending approval, AO13 will be submitted for OMB review. Publication and implementation of the final rule may be delayed in order to integrate the Rewrite Project with VA's Claims Transformation Initiative, which is designed to	

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			filed after a certain date, TBD. Part 5 eventually will replace part 3 of 38 CFR, when these current regulations are no longer required to adjudicate claims.	Tentatively, VA may publish this consolidated rule in 2012, which will provide the public with an additional opportunity to comment on all of the proposed part 5 regulations.	claims and should improve accuracy. The publication of AO13 will enhance public participation by allowing the public to see all of the rewritten provisions at one time, review VA's responses to all previous comments, and provide a final opportunity for any additional comments.	eliminate VA's claims backlog.	
Compensation Service	2900-AO19, proposed rule	Schedule for Rating Disabilities—Hemic and Lymphatic	AO19 (The Hematologic and Lymphatic Systems) proposes to amend the portion of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities that addresses the hematologic and lymphatic systems. The intended effect of this change is to incorporate medical advances that have occurred since the	Publish the proposed rule NLT Dec 2014.	None. Updated rating schedules will benefit veterans by applying the latest medical information for disability adjudications.	AO19 currently is being coordinated with VA's Office of General Counsel. A public forum with subject-matter experts was held in Washington, DC in Dec. 2009.	A VASRD Status Summit: Public Overview of Proposed Disability Evaluation Criteria for 9 body systems was held in Arlington,

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			last revision of these regulations, update medical terminology, add medical conditions not currently in the Rating Schedule, and refine criteria for further clarity and ease of rater application.				VA, June 4-8 and 11-13.
Compensation Service	2900-AO44, proposed rule	Schedule for Rating Disabilities—Endocrine	AO44 (The Endocrine System) proposes to revise the portion of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities that addresses the endocrine system. The intended effect of this change is to update medical terminology, add medical conditions not currently in the Rating Schedule, revise the criteria to reflect medical advances since the last revision of these regulations, and clarify the criteria.	Publish the proposed rule NLT Dec 2014.	None. Updated rating schedules will benefit veterans by applying the latest medical information for disability adjudications.	AO44 currently is being coordinated with VA's Office of General Counsel. A public forum with subject-matter experts was held in Washington, DC in Dec. 2009.	A VASRD Status Summit: Public Overview of Proposed Disability Evaluation Criteria for 9 body systems was held in Arlington, VA, June 4-8 and 11-13.
Compensation		Schedule for Rating		Draft a proposed rule by Dec 2013.	None. Updated rating schedules will	A public forum with subject-	A VASRD Status

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Service		Disabilities— Mental Disorders			benefit veterans by applying the latest medical information for disability adjudications.	matter experts was held in Washington, DC in Jan. 2010.	Summit: Public Overview of Proposed Disability Evaluation Criteria for 9 body systems was held in Arlington, VA, June 4-8 and 11-13.
Compensation Service		Schedule for Rating Disabilities— Musculoskeletal		Draft a proposed rule by Dec 2013.	None. Updated rating schedules will benefit veterans by applying the latest medical information for disability adjudications.	A public forum with subject-matter experts was held in Washington, DC in Aug. 2010.	A VASRD Status Summit: Public Overview of Proposed Disability Evaluation Criteria for 9 body systems was held in Arlington,

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							VA, June 4-8 and 11-13.
Compensation Service		Schedule for Rating Disabilities— Dental and Oral Conditions		Draft a proposed rule by Dec 2013.	None. Updated rating schedules will benefit veterans by applying the latest medical information for disability adjudications.	A public forum with subject-matter experts was held in Scottsdale, Arizona, in Jan./Feb. 2011.	A VASRD Status Summit: Public Overview of Proposed Disability Evaluation Criteria for 9 body systems was held in Arlington, VA, June 4-8 and 11-13.
Compensation Service		Schedule for Rating Disabilities— Genitourinary		Draft a proposed rule by Dec 2013.	None. Updated rating schedules will benefit veterans by applying the latest medical information for disability adjudications.	A public forum with subject-matter experts was held in Scottsdale, Arizona, in Jan./Feb. 2011.	A VASRD Status Summit: Public Overview of Proposed Disability Evaluation Criteria for

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							9 body systems was held in Arlington, VA, June 4-8 and 11-13.
Compensation Service		Schedule for Rating Disabilities— Infectious Disease, Immune Disorders, and Nutritional Deficiencies		Draft a proposed rule by Dec 2013.	None. Updated rating schedules will benefit veterans by applying the latest medical information for disability adjudications.	A public forum with subject-matter experts was held in Scottsdale, Arizona, in Jan./Feb. 2011.	A VASRD Status Summit: Public Overview of Proposed Disability Evaluation Criteria for 9 body systems was held in Arlington, VA, June 4-8 and 11-13.
Compensation Service		Schedule for Rating Disabilities— Digestive		Draft a proposed rule by Dec 2013.	None. Updated rating schedules will benefit veterans by applying the latest medical information	A public forum with subject-matter experts was held in Scottsdale,	A VASRD Status Summit: Public Overview

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					for disability adjudications.	Arizona, in Jan./Feb. 2011.	of Proposed Disability Evaluation Criteria for 9 body systems was held in Arlington, VA, June 4-8 and 11-13.
Compensation Service		Schedule for Rating Disabilities—Cardiovascular		Draft a proposed rule by Dec 2014.	None. Updated rating schedules will benefit veterans by applying the latest medical information for disability adjudications.	A public forum with subject-matter experts was held in New York City in Oct. 2011.	
Compensation Service		Schedule for Rating Disabilities—Respiratory		Draft a proposed rule by Dec 2014.	None. Updated rating schedules will benefit veterans by applying the latest medical information for disability adjudications.	A public forum with subject-matter experts was held in New York City in Oct. 2011.	
Compensation Service		Schedule for Rating Disabilities—Impairment of		Draft a proposed rule by Dec 2014.	None. Updated rating schedules will benefit veterans by applying the latest	A public forum with subject-matter experts was held in New	

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		Auditory Acuity			medical information for disability adjudications.	York City in Oct. 2011.	
Compensation Service		Schedule for Rating Disabilities—Neurological Conditions and Convulsive Disorders		Draft a proposed rule by Dec 2014.	None. Updated rating schedules will benefit veterans by applying the latest medical information for disability adjudications.	A public forum with subject-matter experts was held in New York City in Jan. 2012.	
Compensation Service		Schedule for Rating Disabilities—Gynecological Conditions and Disorders of the Breast		Draft a proposed rule by Dec 2014.	None. Updated rating schedules will benefit veterans by applying the latest medical information for disability adjudications.	A public forum with subject-matter experts was held in New York City in Jan. 2012.	
Compensation Service		Schedule for Rating Disabilities—Skin		Draft a proposed rule by Dec 2014.	None. Updated rating schedules will benefit veterans by applying the latest medical information for disability adjudications.	A public forum with subject-matter experts was held in New York City in Jan. 2012.	
Compensation Service		Schedule for Rating Disabilities—Organs of Special Sense (Eye)		Draft a proposed rule by Dec 2014.	None. Updated rating schedules will benefit veterans by applying the latest medical information for disability adjudications.	A public forum with subject-matter experts was held in New York City in Jan. 2012.	

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<p>Compensation Service</p>		<p>(New) Schedule for Rating Disabilities— Rheumatology</p>		<p>Draft a proposed rule by Dec 2013.</p>	<p>None. A new rating schedule in this area may benefit veterans by applying the latest medical information for disability adjudications.</p>	<p>A public forum with subject-matter experts was held in Scottsdale, Arizona, in Jan./Feb. 2011.</p>	<p>A VASRD Status Summit: Public Overview of Proposed Disability Evaluation Criteria for 9 body systems was held in Arlington, VA, June 4-8 and 11-13.</p>
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Burden Reduction Initiatives:

Sub-Agency	Title	Description of the initiative	Hours of paperwork/ reporting eliminated	Estimated effective date of the change	Notes
Veterans Benefits Administration	E-Benefits Portal	2900-0737 - eBenefits is a joint VA/DoD web portal that provides resources and self-service capabilities to Veterans, Service members, and their families to research, access and manage their VA and military benefits and personal information. eBenefits uses secure credentials to allow access to personal information and gives users the ability to perform numerous self-service functions. VA is planning to reduce the time per response from 5 minutes to 2 minutes by improving the electronic profile form. The original form has been modified to take less time to complete. Registration information belongs with the Department of Defense and is not collected by eBenefits. Once an authenticated user accesses their personal profile screen, numerous fields are pre-populated, e.g. name, thus the user has less fields to complete.	135,000	11/2012	<i>\$2,025,00 - Cost in savings to the respondents.</i>

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Veterans Health Administration	Application and Renewal for Health Benefits	2900-0091 Collects Veteran information to enroll for health care benefits. It establishes basic eligibility, identifies 3rd party health insurance coverage, identifies prescription copayment, provides for income verification and serves as a mechanism to make changes upon admission or yearly financial updates. VHA plans to consolidate the 10-10EZ and 10-10EZR online applications by electronically presenting questions to Veterans based on responses they provide and data needed by VA to effect a determination for benefits or renewal for VA health care. The reduction in burden hours for each form is estimated to be 5 minutes. VA plans to eliminate the collection of financial information in CY13. Instead VA will leverage IRS/SSA electronic queries to verify income/net worth of Veterans thus relieving this burden. For those required to submit financial information, it is estimated it will save 22.5 minute on the 10-10EZ and 12 minutes for the 10-10EZR.	110,145	5/2013	<i>\$5,871,720 - Cost Savings to the Government.</i>
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Veterans Benefits Administration	Disability Benefits Questionnaires (Groups 1 and 2)	<p>2900-0776 and 2900-0779-DBQs use standardized questions specifically designed to address the questions needed by VA to adjudicate a veteran's disability claim. Additionally, DBQs enable a Veteran to have a treating physician complete the DBQ and, thereby, aid in VA's disability examination process. VA, VA-contracted, and private providers will all use the same identical standardized questionnaire in the future, resulting in consistent products regardless of who completes the form. VA is currently building and will soon field an online, interview-based tool that will allow both VA and private providers to complete and submit DBQs online. This interview-based tool will assist in the completion of a DBQ thereby making it easier and faster to complete. Additionally, the tool will collect data and automatically upload it into VA adjudication system which will create an aggregate timeliness and quality advantage for claims processing and thus help alleviate claims backlog. At this time, there will be no changes to the forms but VA does plan to have future improvements to the content of the forms. The estimated timeframe for implementation of this planned improvement is in late FY2014.</p>	180,750	12/2014	<i>\$13,793,648 - Cost Savings to the Government.</i>
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