RESERVE COMPONENT INTEGRATED DISABILITY
EVALUATION SYSTEM EXAMINATIONS

1. REASON FOR ISSUE. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive defines the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) process by which VHA completes disability medical examination requests for Reserve Component (RC) Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) examinations.

2. SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES. In order to provide a more efficient and supportive IDES program for RC Servicemembers, all facilities must accommodate requests for disability examinations at a location that has been determined to be nearest to the Servicemember's physical location or residence on a timely basis that meets IDES Program guidelines.

3. RELATED ISSUES. None.

4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (10NC8) is responsible for the content of this Directive. Questions may be referred to the Director, DOD Liaison and Administrative Programs, at 202-461-6699.

5. RESCISSIONS. None.

6. RECERTIFICATION. This VHA Directive is scheduled for recertification on or before the last working day of June 2018.

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RESERVE COMPONENT INTEGRATED DISABILITY
EVALUATION SYSTEM EXAMINATIONS

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive defines the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) process by which VHA completes disability medical examination requests for Reserve Component (RC) Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) examinations.

2. BACKGROUND

    a. The process for scheduling examinations for RC Servicemembers is similar to current IDES scheduling processes, with the exception of not having pre-designated VA resources to conduct IDES examinations.

    b. Often RC Servicemembers are referred for IDES processing from sites that are a great distance from their physical location or residence. In an effort to reduce the amount of travel required for RC Servicemembers enrolled in IDES, the Veterans Benefits Administration's (VBA) Military Service Coordinators (MSCs) have been directed to request disability examinations at VHA health care facilities nearest to the RC Servicemember's physical location or residence.

    c. MSCs are responsible for requesting and coordinating disability examinations. The MSCs request that IDES examinations be scheduled at VA health care facilities closest to the RC Servicemember's physical location or residence. While the MSC may be assigned to or supporting a specific military treatment facility (MTF) or VA Medical Center (VAMC), they may select any VHA health care facility, in any Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN), identified as having the appropriate clinical capability to complete the exam request. The VHA health care facility, if capabilities exist, must complete all examination requests regardless of any facility jurisdiction or catchment area status.

    d. For MSCs to easily identify the site where capabilities exist to perform all required examinations nearest to the RC Servicemember's physical location or residence, they must have access to the current disability capabilities of each VA health care facility. To assist with this process, the Compensation and Pension Record Interchange (CAPRI) provides a functionality allowing staff at the VA health care facility to list and maintain disability examination capabilities at their facility.

3. POLICY: It is VHA policy that in order to accomplish a more efficient and supportive IDES program for RC Servicemembers, VHA health care facilities must accommodate requests for disability examinations based on the location determined to be nearest to the RC Servicemember's physical location or residence.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

    a. **Under Secretary for Health.** The Under Secretary for Health is responsible for the quality and timeliness of the VHA disability examination process and ensuring that resources are allocated in support of this process.

b. **Office of Disability and Medical Assessment.** The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment is responsible for:

(1) Ensuring implementation of this Directive.

(2) Providing guidance on the use of the CAPRI functionality, to include, regular conference calls and Web-based training.

c. **Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Director.** Each VISN Director is responsible for:

(1) Ensuring disability examination capabilities for each of their facilities is updated and maintained current in CAPRI.

(2) Ensuring adherence to IDES timelines for performing these examinations.

(3) Ensuring compliance with this Directive.

d. **Facility Director.** Each facility Director is responsible for:

(1) Ensuring the requested examinations are accomplished following existing IDES processes, including adhering to the IDES timelines for performing all requested examinations in 45 days or less from the date of the MSC request, including administration time. All IDES examinations are to be released in CAPRI for use by the servicing MSCs. Once this action has been completed, facilities will generate appropriate claims for reimbursement of eligible IDES examinations and associated ancillaries.

(2) Ensuring the examination type functionality in CAPRI is updated and reflects the current disability examinations available at the facility. All facilities conducting Compensation and Pension and IDES disability examinations must enter the examination type(s) their facility can accommodate into the specific function in CAPRI. Any examination types requested that cannot be accomplished by the facility or by contracted resources will be automatically "flagged" for the MSC.

(3) Ensuring training regarding the CAPRI examination type functionality is provided. A training video on the use of the CAPRI functionality to enter VHA facility examination information called "Editing Exam List Parameters in CAPRI", which provides a step-by-step process on completing this task can be found on VBA's CAPRI Web site: http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/21/Systems/capamie.htm. *NOTE: This is an internal VA Web site and is not available to the public.* From the home page, the training video can be accessed from the section: CAPRI Training & Reference Videos. Training is also available through VA's Talent Management System (TMS), titled "Saving CAPRI Reports to Virtual VA", course number 2081974. TMS can be accessed at: https://www.tms.va.gov/plateau/user/login.jsp. Additional information explaining this functionality can be found in the CAPRI manual, beginning on page 124: CAPRI User Manual: http://www.va.gov/vdl/application.asp?appid=133.

5. REFERENCES: None.