

May 16, 2018

RESCISSION OF VHA DIRECTIVE 2013-002, DOCUMENTATION OF MEDICAL EVIDENCE FOR DISABILITY EVALUATION PURPOSES

1. By direction of the Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), VHA Directive 2013-002, Documentation of Medical Evidence for Disability Evaluation Purposes, dated January 14, 2013, is rescinded.
2. The content in this directive is outdated. VHA Directive 2013-002 addresses policy for the use of Disability Benefit Questionnaires (DBQs) to provide medical information for disability evaluations or examinations for eligible Veterans in support of the disability compensation process.
3. Current guidance is currently available in other VHA directives, VHA Office of Disability and Medical Assessment's (DMA) C&P Disability Examinations Procedure Guide and a DMA Fact Sheet, and VA's benefits material on the VA internet website.
4. VHA Directive 1046, Disability Examinations, dated April 23, 2014, addresses warm handoffs and a "no wrong door" information as well as completing examination requests on DBQs. VHA Directive 1134, Provision of Medical Statements and Completion of Forms by VA Health Care Providers, dated November 28, 2016, addresses DBQs being completed by VHA treating providers. VHA Directives can be accessed at www.va.gov/vhapublications.
5. The DMA C&P Disability Examination Procedure Guide (or subsequent replacement material) addresses completing examinations on DBQs. The DMA's Procedure Guide is available at <http://vaww.demo.va.gov/archiveDisabilityExamProcGuide.asp>. DMA Fact Sheet 17-002 addresses VHA treating providers completing DBQs and the DBQ Referral Process. DMA Fact Sheet 17-002 can be found at <http://vaww.demo.va.gov/factsheets.asp>. Additional guidance regarding VHA C&P Disability Examination Program Policies and Procedures can be found on DMA's Web site at <http://vaww.demo.va.gov>.
6. VA benefits information, including material on DBQs being completed at a Veteran's request to support a claim for VA disability benefits by VA and private treating providers, is available at www.va.gov. **NOTE:** *This is an internal VA Web site that is not available to the public.*
7. All inquiries concerning this action should be addressed to the Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (10NC8) at (202) 461-6699 or CorporateMailbox.DMA@va.gov.
8. This VHA notice will be archived as of May 31, 2019. However, the rescission information will remain in effect.

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DISTRIBUTION: Emailed to the VHA Publications Distribution List on May 17, 2018.