

July 29, 2020

**RESCISSION OF VHA DIRECTIVE 1602 MEDICAL REVIEW ASSISTANCE TO
BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS' CASES**

1. By direction of the Office of the Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), VHA Directive 1602, Medical Review Assistance to Board of Veterans' Appeals' Cases, dated February 16, 2016, is rescinded.
2. In fiscal year (FY) 2019, the Board of Veterans Appeals (Board) implemented the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 (AMA). In certain circumstances, the law requires VA to assist Veterans in their claims for benefits by obtaining medical opinions. Previously, the Board requested this action from VHA under this directive. However, the AMA does not allow the Board to request VHA medical opinions or Independent Medical Examinations anymore, but the Agency of Original Jurisdiction must now obtain the opinion. The implementation of the AMA in VA supersedes VHA Directive 1602 and so renders the directive obsolete.
3. All inquiries concerning this action should be addressed to the Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (10NC8) at 202-461-6884.
4. This VHA notice will be archived as of July 31, 2020. However, the rescission information will remain in effect.

**BY DIRECTION OF THE OFFICE OF THE
UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH:**

/s/ Renee Oshinski
Assistant Under Secretary for Health
for Operations

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