

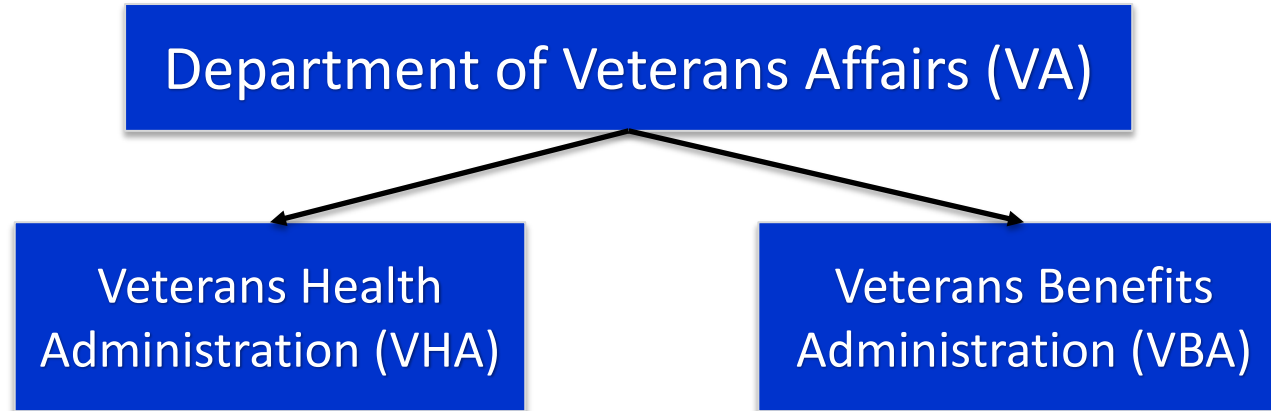


VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Overview of VHA Support of Compensation and Pension Examinations

Requested by: National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM)
Presented by: James Eggers, Acting Deputy Chief Officer, DMA
Date of Briefing: Wednesday, January 29, 2025

Organizational Alignment



The **Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)** administers benefits programs for transitioning Servicemembers, Veterans, their survivors and dependents. The major benefits include compensation, pension, burial allowance, vocational rehabilitation, education and training assistance, home loan guarantees and insurance coverage.

The **Veterans Health Administration (VHA)** operates the largest integrated health care system in the United States and delivers healthcare services to Veterans through a nationwide network of VA Medical Centers, outpatient clinics, and Vet Centers. **Medical Disability Examinations requested by VBA are supported by local Compensation and Pension (C&P) departments supported by VISN and VHA's Office of Disability Medical Assessment (DMA).**



Overview

VHA's **Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA)** provides centralized guidance for VHA Compensation and Pension (C&P) examinations for the delivery of VA benefits and support of Veterans filing a claim for VA disability benefits.

DMA supports VA & VHA priorities in the following areas:

- **Advocate to Veteran Integrated Service Network (VISN) and VA Medical Center (VAMC) C&P Departments:** Developing, implementing, and providing nationwide direction regarding C&P education and C&P training materials, guidance for program evaluation for VHA C&P clinicians, policy and procedures, offering business intelligence reporting and analytics, VHA disability examiner certification, and Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) efforts; focusing on improving the examinations and the examination process.
- **Serves National Liaison for VHA Disability Exams:** VHA Program Offices, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Office of General Counsel. Additionally, connect with other federal agencies: Department of Defense, Government Accountability Office & Congressional offices supporting matters concerning VA Disability Exams.



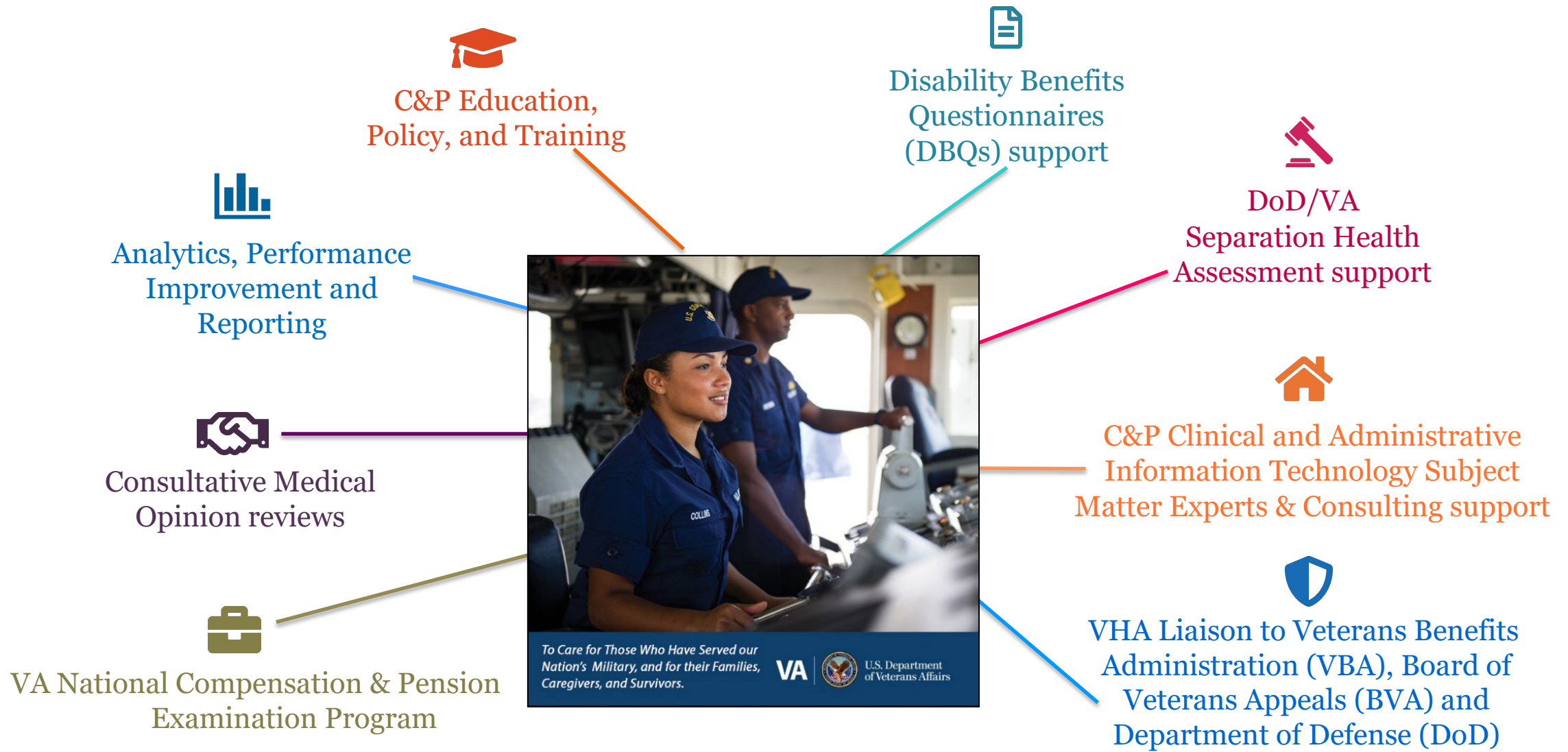
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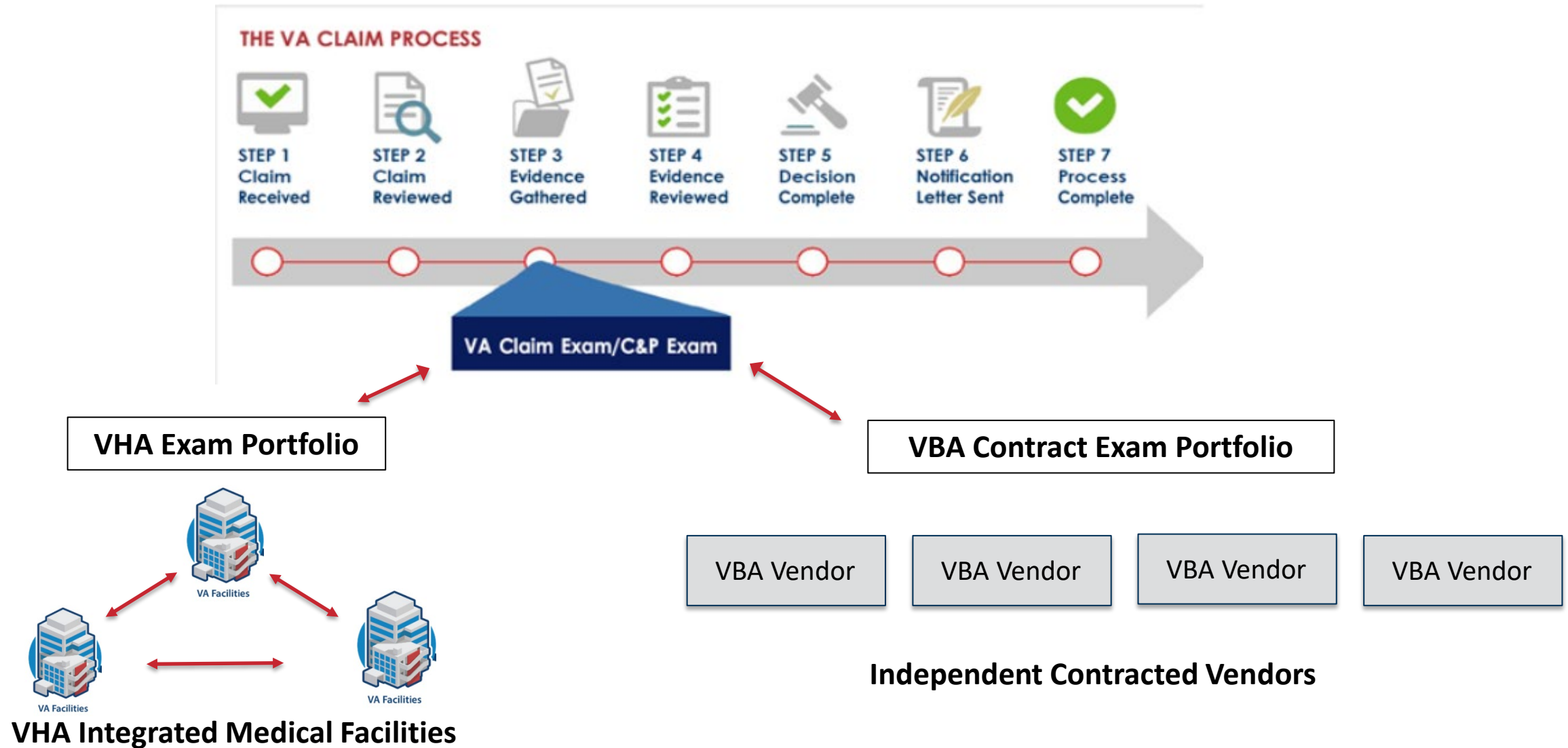


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Veteran-Centered Focus: DMA Scope



VHA Support of VA's Disability Claim Process



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VBA Contract Exam Exclusions

- VHA continues to support disability examinations identified as contractual exclusions.
- The exclusion list includes the following:
 - Former Prisoner of War (FPOW) Protocol Examination;
 - Examination requires hospitalization or surgical evaluation, such as colonoscopy or laparoscopy;
 - Veteran is an inpatient at a VHA facility, nursing home, extended care facility, or domiciliary (including state-operated Veterans' homes); and
 - Veteran is an employee of the contract examination vendor scheduled to conduct the examination.

VHA Required C&P Training

- **Registration and Certification**
 - VHA and VBA contracted C&P examiners must complete specific training modules and post-tests for certification prior to being allowed to perform any C&P disability exams
- **Specific Training Requirements**
 - Mandatory C&P Certification Training – 5 general courses required for all clinicians performing C&P examinations and includes a C&P training course in Military Sexual Trauma (MST)
 - Additional Specialty C&P Training
 - Mental Health (MH) Examinations
 - Musculoskeletal – required for any clinician performing a bone, muscle or joint examination
 - Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- **TBI, Audiology, MH & Vision C&P exams are performed by specialists**

Questions?



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