

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Program Name: Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

Policy Number: VR-8.6-v1

Effective Date: July 1, 2008

Last Revision: March 31, 2021

CHAPTER 8: Assessment Services

Section 8.6: Assessments: Rehabilitative Services

I. Policy Statement

This policy provides the guidelines regarding the provision of assessments for speech, occupational, and physical therapy that need to be purchased by VR for applicants/clients when the existing documentation is insufficient for determining eligibility, functional limitations, or scope of VR services

II. Authority

Authority for policies contained in this document includes the following:

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), 29 U.S.C. § 3101 et seq.
- Title IV Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 701 et seq.
- State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program, 34 C.F.R. §§:
 - Scope of vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities 361.48 (b)(1-2)
 - Comparable services and benefits 361.53 (b)(1)
 - Participation of individuals in cost of services based on financial need 361.54 (b)(3)(i)(A-B)
- A.R.S. §§ 23-502 and 503
- Arizona Administrative Code, Title 6, Chapter 4:
 - General considerations R6-4-201 (A)(1)(a)
 - Diagnostic Study R6-4-203
 - Service and provider standards, service authorizations equipment purchasing, Workers' Compensation R6-4-402 (A)(1)(c), (f), and (k); (B)(1)(c)(i), (ii), and (d)
 - Economic need and similar benefits R6-4-403 (A)(1)(b)(i-ii) and (B)(2)(b)(iv)

III. Applicability

This applies to circumstances when assessments for speech, occupational, and physical therapy are authorized and purchased by VR.

IV. Standards

- A. The VR Counselor must provide the service provider with the following referral information:
 - 1. Pertinent background information regarding the applicant/client's disability and vocational objectives, and
 - 2. A specific list of questions regarding the implications of the applicant/client's disability in terms of employment.
- B. Economic need does not apply.
- C. Comparable benefits do not apply.
- D. VR refer clients/applicants for the following types of evaluations to assess their service needs and obtain recommendations regarding:
 - 1. Occupational therapy,
 - 2. Physical therapy,
 - 3. Physical performance, and
 - 4. Speech therapy.
- E. Physical therapy evaluation is utilized to provide a comprehensive history systems review, tests and measures, tests of range of motion, motor function, muscle performance, joint integrity, neuromuscular status, and review of orthotic and prosthetic devices.
- F. A follow up physical therapy evaluation must also be utilized for re-examination of the applicant/client to obtain objective measures of progress toward stated goals.
- G. Occupational therapy evaluation is utilized to evaluate an applicant/client's various movements required for activities of daily living such as dexterity, range of movement, and other elements may be suitable.
- H. Physical performance test (also referred to as "functional capacity evaluation") is utilized for testing and measuring of an applicant/client's physical performance and functioning of one or more body areas.
- I. Speech evaluation is utilized to evaluate an applicant/client's speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing, and/or aural rehabilitation status prior to speech therapy.
- J. Only one assessment is allowed per case.

- K. Refer to Section 9.4 Treatments-Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapy regarding corresponding treatment services.

V. Procedure

- A. Refer to IV.A (1-2) above.
- B. Refer to Standard Work, if available.
- C. Refer to the RSA Allowable Services Spreadsheet, contracts (if available) and provider requirements. For a non-contracted service, refer to RSA Contracts Unit for guidance whether the service is to be procured via:
 - 1. Arizona Health Care Cost Containment (AHCCCS) Fee for Services, or
 - 2. Other procurement methods, or
 - 3. Direct payment to the client via CPA.
- D. The VR Counselor must complete the agency Referral for Services form for assessment for rehabilitative services.
- E. The VR Counselor must task the Purchasing Technician to create RSA Purchase Authorization(s) for the service(s) listed in V. D.
- F. The Purchasing Technician must submit the RSA Purchase Authorization for each service listed in V. D along with the referral information to the provider(s).
- G. Upon receipt of the provider's assessment report, the VR Counselor must review the report for completeness, approve the provider's invoice and process for payment after confirming that the reporting documentation is complete.

VI. Documentation Requirements

The applicant/client's electronic case file must include the following:

- A. Referral information,
- B. RSA Purchase Authorization(s),
- C. Assessment for rehabilitative service(s) report.