

REFERRAL TO A REHABILITATION CENTER

I. LEGAL AUTHORITY:

34 CFR 361.42(a)(3); 34 CFR 361.44.

II. POLICY STATEMENT AND PURPOSE:

Some individuals with significant disabilities such as spinal cord injuries or traumatic brain injuries frequently require definitive treatment at a rehabilitation center. Accordingly, the Rhode Island Office of Rehabilitation Services will provide to clients who are significantly disabled, either in Extended Evaluation or as part of the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE), sponsorship to accredited rehabilitation facilities. Out of state referral will be made only to the extent that such comprehensive rehabilitation services are unavailable in Rhode Island. Referral will be made when it will assist the individual to achieve an employment outcome and/or determine the ability to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services.

III. PROCEDURES:

The following procedures must be utilized when it becomes clear that there will be a requirement for evaluation/physical restoration at a rehabilitation center.

- A. Relevant medical summaries must be obtained from the acute hospital, attending physicians, the individual, or the family in order to meet eligibility requirements or the need for extended evaluation.
- B. In general, a physical medicine evaluation by a physiatrist should be obtained prior to referral to a rehabilitation center. If the acute hospital does not have a department of physical medicine and rehabilitation, the counselor is obligated to make arrangement and authorization to a physiatrist in the community for evaluation.
- C. Medical summaries and the physical medicine evaluation, if available, will be jointly reviewed by the medical consultant and the counselor before a letter of authorization is sent to the rehabilitation center.
- D. After authorization to a rehabilitation center is made, it is the responsibility of the counselor to monitor the progress at the rehabilitation center and to participate fully in discharge planning.