


LRS CHAPTER 4, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & GUIDANCE MANUAL

 <p>LOUISIANA WORKFORCE COMMISSION The Department of Labor</p>	Part	Name	Effective Date
	412.03	Restoration (Physical/Mental)	*2/13/2023**
Authorization Federal Register, Volume 81, Department of Education, 34 CFR 361, Part VI, State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program, §361.48, §361.50, §361.52, §361.53, §361.54 and 2 CFR 200.407.			

I. RESTORATION SERVICES

Restoration services are those medical and medically related services that are necessary to correct or substantially improve a physical or mental condition that is stable or slowly progressive and results in a substantial impediment to employability. Restoration services should be provided within a ***finite amount**** of time in order to assist the consumer in reaching the agreed upon competitive integrated employment goal.

- A. The Counselor can provide physical and/or mental restoration services if the service(s) is directly related to the consumer's ability to enter or retain ******* employment commensurate with the agreed upon competitive integrated employment goal.
- B. Physical and mental restoration services require either a prescription and/or an evaluation/assessment of need from a professional who is licensed to practice the particular area of specialty.
- C. A financial need analysis will be applied to determine if a consumer qualifies for this service. Counselor must use all comparable services/similar benefits. Refer to Part 410 & 411.
- D. VR must purchase the least expensive alternative that meets the functional needs of the consumer. If a consumer has a substantial impediment to employment and is requesting surgical services, the VR counselor must first determine whether any of the following nonsurgical options will remove the consumer's substantial impediment to employment: workplace modification, reasonable accommodation, assistive device, etc. It is practical and appropriate for LRS to explore alternative employment opportunities with consumers that may negate the need for corrective surgery.

VR shall not authorize or provide medical restoration service(s) for the following:

1. ***Visual Restoration Services**
 - a. General routine visual examinations on a recurring basis, or
 - b. General routine maintenance or repair of existing eyeglasses or other corrective lenses or visual devices.

NOTE: Conditions of the eye that are correctable to normal vision (20/20) by ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses do not constitute a physical or mental impairment for purposes of vocational rehabilitation services eligibility.

2. Dental Restoration Services

- a. General routine dental examinations on a recurring basis
- b. Dental services that are not restorative, such as preventative treatments
- c. General routine maintenance, repair, or replacement of existing braces, retainers, dentures, or similar devices
- d. Cosmetic procedures, including but not limited to, polishing and whitening treatments

NOTE: Conditions that are correctable by ordinary dental treatment do not constitute a physical or mental impairment for purposes of vocational rehabilitation services eligibility.**

3. Procedures:

- a. Acupuncture
- b. Gastrointestinal bypass and other weight reduction surgeries
- c. Organ transplantation
- d. Tattoo removal
- e. Routine medical *** care
- f. Any medical procedure which has a high mortality rate; has a success rate reported to be less than seventy-five percent; is determined by State Office to be experimental; or does not substantially affect the consumer's employment outcome.

E. Restoration services can include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Surgery

- a. Surgery can be provided to correct a physical condition that is stable or slowly progressive and constitutes an impediment to employment.
- b. Such surgery must be reasonably expected to eliminate or reduce the impediment to employment.
- c. Hospitalization costs in connection with surgery can also be provided.
- d. The Counselor must obtain either a prescription and/or an evaluation/assessment of need from a licensed physician which must be attached to the AWARE case record.
- e. Dental restoration can only be provided when directly connected to the agreed upon competitive integrated employment goal. (Example: a professional appearance is required to work in approved vocation.) This service must be approved by the Regional Manager.

2. Psychotherapy/Mental Health Counseling
 - a. Psychotherapy or mental health counseling can be provided if the mental or emotional disorder is stable or slowly progressive and the condition can be corrected or substantially modified within a ***finite amount**** of time. These services can be provided when necessary to achieve the agreed upon competitive integrated employment goal. For example, provision of psychotherapy would be appropriate to assist a consumer with emotional problems through a stressful period to enable successful consumer participation in training, in initial job placement, or to assure job retention.
 - b. The Counselor must obtain either a recommendation or an evaluation/assessment of need from a Psychiatrist, Licensed Psychologist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) which must be attached to the AWARE case record.
 - c. Psychotherapy or mental health counseling services are provided only by the following qualified personnel:
 - (1) Psychiatrist
 - (2) Licensed Psychologist
 - (3) Licensed Clinical Social Worker
 - (4) Licensed Professional Counselor (refer to 405 II. C. for further criteria)
 - d. VR shall not authorize or provide mental restoration services for the following:
 - Hypnotherapy;
 - Any treatment which is determined by State Office to be experimental;
 - Any treatment which does not substantially affect the consumer's employment outcome
3. Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy
 - a. An LRS Counselor can purchase therapies if the therapy is specifically targeted to assist a consumer to adjust to a physical disability in order to assist the consumer to reach the agreed upon competitive integrated employment goal.
 - b. The Counselor must obtain either a prescription and/or an evaluation/assessment of need from a licensed professional, including but not limited to the following, which must be attached to the AWARE case record.

- i. Physician
 - ii. Occupational Therapist
 - iii. Physical Therapist
 - iv. Speech Therapist
 - v. Chiropractor
 - c. Other therapies to address physical or mental restoration would require a prescription from the appropriate medical professional and approval of the Regional Manager.
- 4. Purchase of Eyeglasses
 - a. If vision, with best correction, does not results in any serious functional limitations (i.e. mobility, communication, etc.), then the purchase of prescribed eyeglasses/contact lenses is regarded as physical restoration and therefore, is subject to financial need under current policy. The purchase of eyeglass frames may not exceed \$125.00. Eyeglass lenses are payable at actual cost.
 - b. If, with best corrections, significant functional limitations exist, then prescribed eyeglasses/contact lenses should be regarded as assistive technology. Medical verification of functional limitations is generally found on medical eye reports. Counselors must also document functional limitations.

- F. *LRS may terminate services consisting of multiple treatments or sessions when:
- 1. Continuation of the services fails to produce satisfactory progress toward meeting the purpose for which they are being provided; or,
 - 2. There is a determination that the need for continued services is an ongoing or mental health maintenance need.**

II. PURCHASING GUIDELINES FOR RESTORATION (PHYSICAL/MENTAL)

- A. The Counselor must determine the consumer's ability to participate in the cost of the restoration services. A financial need analysis will be applied to determine if a consumer qualifies for this service. Counselor must use all comparable services/similar benefits. If no comparable benefit is available for the payment of medical restoration services, LRS can purchase the service in accordance with the Medicaid Fee Schedule. For services not included in the Medicaid Fee Schedule, approval must be obtained by State Office.
- B. The Counselor must obtain a written prescription and an approximate cost for the service(s) from the vendor.
 1. A recommendation from a licensed professional as appropriate for restorative services in the evaluation/assessment report is acceptable.
 2. Therapy is limited to 26 sessions. If additional therapy sessions are needed, the Counselor must obtain approval from the Regional Manager.
 3. The Counselor should assess and apply the fee(s) in the Medical Fee Schedule.
- C. The completed IPE/Plan should be submitted to the District Supervisor for approval unless Counselor is on Independent Status. Upon approval of the IPE the RCA *** will enter the authorization(s). See Chapter 4, Part 411.1 for further instructions on Secondary Approval requirements.
- D. If the total of all items/services on any IPE/ Plan is equal to or greater than ***\$75,000***, it shall be considered "high cost." In these instances, all Counselors must have the IPE/Plan approved by both the District Supervisor, and Regional Manager.
- E. Method of Payment

Prior to the Counselor/RCA authorizing payment to the vendor/provider after actual deliver of item(s)/services the following must be met:

1. The provider must provide a bill/invoice in order to receive payment. If the provider/vendor does not have a billing invoice, the provider can use LRS' form RS-22 Billing Invoice.
2. The Consumer must verify that services were secured as outlined on the invoice. The Consumer can either write anywhere on the invoice that the goods and/or services have been received or submit in writing (e-mail acceptable), a note to the Counselor indicating that the goods/services have been received. By doing so the Consumer is requesting LRS to make payments to the provider.

3. Counselors are authorized to withhold payment for services until 1-2 above are received. If there are disagreements or evidence of significant departures from the original agreements, then an administrative review of the case will be conducted to determine the appropriate legal resolution.