

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 6. WORK RESTORATION PROGRAM

PARAGRAPH	PAGE
6.01 Statement of Policy	6-1
6.02 General Provisions	6-1
6.03 Program Objectives	6-1
6.04 Definitions	6-2

CHAPTER 6. WORK RESTORATION PROGRAM

6.01 STATEMENT OF POLICY

a. Through the use of purposeful activity the work restoration program serves as a catalyst to encourage persons with dysfunction to move from a dependent to a productive state in accordance with the demands of society.

b. The work restoration program includes:

- (1) Prevocational exploration,
- (2) Work evaluation,
- (3) Incentive therapy,
- (4) Compensated Work Therapy, and
- (5) Job placement, and
- (6) Follow-up.

c. The Vocational Rehabilitation Case Manager and the Therapeutic Printing Plant Programs are incorporated under this chapter.

6.02 GENERAL PROVISIONS

a. The work restoration program is designed to meet the needs of patients by assessing the patient's strengths, skills and needs leading to appropriate job placement.

b. The health care professionals in RMS (Rehabilitation Medicine Service) assigned to these activities should include:

- (1) A case manager,
- (2) An occupational therapist,
- (3) A vocational rehabilitation specialist,
- (4) A manual arts therapist, and
- (5) Educational therapists and other staff who contribute to the vocational rehabilitation process and who should be called upon when needed, depending upon their privileges.

c. It is important that the VHA (Veterans Health Administration) vocational rehabilitation team work closely with the Veterans Benefits Administration, the State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, and with other resources within the community.

6.03 PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Program objectives are to:

- a. Assess patient's needs leading to appropriate job/task placement.

- b. Increase the individual's independence and productivity.
- c. Develop socially acceptable behavioral patterns.
- d. Increase attention span and work tolerance.
- e. Increase social awareness and group interaction.
- f. Increase self-confidence and self-esteem.
- g. Encourage good work habits, which will aid the patient in meeting the physical and psychosocial demands in society, emphasizing:
 - (1) Reliability,
 - (2) Punctuality,
 - (3) Productivity,
 - (4) Personal responsibilities, and
 - (5) Acceptance of supervision.
- h. Instruct patient in work simplification and ergonomics.

6.04 DEFINITIONS

a. Compensated Work Therapy Program. The Compensated Work Therapy Program is a "Work-for-Pay" Program for inpatients and outpatients. The major component is a work regimen with monetary incentives derived from contracts with private industry or other sources outside VA (Department of Veterans Affairs). Reimbursements to participants in the program are related to their productive capabilities. Every effort is to be made to create a realistic work environment. It is essential that earnings be commensurate with wages paid in the community for essentially the same quality and quantity of work and that payments to the patient be prompt and at regular intervals. Although industrial business practices are utilized to simulate usual working conditions, therapy is the objective.

b. Incentive Therapy Program. The Incentive Therapy Program is another "Work-for-Pay Program" provided for under 38 U.S.C. (United States Code) 1718(a) which authorizes an assignment of patients to various hospital work situations. Since the work is considered of economic benefit to the hospital, the veteran must receive remuneration for the accomplished tasks. Under 38 U.S.C. 1718, veterans referred to this program are not held or considered as employees of the United States for any purpose.

c. Vocational Case Management Program. The Vocational Case Management Program is an integrated approach to the provision of vocational rehabilitation services which places special emphasis on bringing the full resources of VA and the community to bear on the vocational rehabilitation of disabled veterans.

d. Therapeutic Printing Plant Program. The Therapeutic Printing Plant Program provides an environment to teach printing and reproduction techniques to referred veterans with the ultimate goal of preparing these veterans for possible employment in the community. Regulations prepared by the Joint Committee on Printing prohibit the use of this program for anything but "therapy."

