

REHABILITATION - GENERAL

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I. DESCRIPTION

Rehabilitation is the reduction of an acquired loss of ability to perform an activity in the manner, or within the range considered normal, for a human being.

II. POLICY

A. Services which have been demonstrated to be capable of reliably confirming the severity of impaired function attributable to a physical impairment may be cost-shared when medically necessary and appropriate.

B. Services or items which have been demonstrated to be usually capable of reducing or arresting the severity of impaired function attributable to a physical impairment may be cost-shared when medically necessary and appropriate.

C. Otherwise services that incidentally address cognitive deficits as factors involved with the restoration of lost neuromuscular functions are covered.

D. Otherwise services such as diagnostic or assessment tests and examinations that are prescribed specifically and uniquely to measure the severity of cognitive impairment are covered.

E. The following therapies and services rendered by an employee of an authorized institutional provider may be cost-shared when part of a comprehensive rehabilitation treatment plan:

1. Physical therapy
2. Rehabilitation counseling
3. Mental health services
4. Speech pathology services
5. Occupational therapy

TRICARE POLICY MANUAL 6010.54-M, AUGUST 1, 2002

CHAPTER 7, SECTION 18.1

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III. EXCLUSIONS

A. Community and work integration training, such as listed in CPT¹ procedure code 97537 is excluded.

B. Vocational rehabilitation. Educational services intended to provide a beneficiary with the knowledge and skills required for the performance of a specific occupation, vocation, or job.

C. Coma stimulation. Activities of external stimulation intended to arouse a beneficiary from a coma.

D. Programs. Standard bundles of services (programs) as an all-inclusive priced unit or services.

NOTE: Services rendered during such a program encounter must be itemized and each reviewed to determine if rendered by an authorized individual professional provider, if it is a covered benefit, and whether it is medically necessary and appropriate.

E. A systematic, goal-oriented rehabilitation treatment program originally designed to improve cognitive functions and functional abilities to increase levels of self-management and independence following neurological damage to the central nervous system.

F. Cognitive rehabilitation services that are prescribed specifically and uniquely to teach compensatory methods to accomplish tasks which rely upon cognitive processes are unproven.

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