

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 03-11-009, filed 5/12/03, effective 2/1/04)

**WAC 296-19A-210 What are the qualifications to provide vocational rehabilitation services to industrially injured or ill workers?** Provider community commentary, expert opinion and best practices suggest that there is a correlation between a higher quality level of vocational rehabilitation services and higher qualifications of vocational rehabilitation providers. To ensure the provision of the highest possible quality of vocational rehabilitation services, the department shall only issue a provider number to persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, and other legal entities that meet the following qualification requirements:

(1) Vocational rehabilitation counselor (VRC).

(a) VRCs not registered with the department and applying for a provider number with the department effective on or after December 1, 2000, must meet the following minimum qualifications:

Education Masters Degree	Experience 1 year full-time industrial insurance experience	Certification and CRC or CDMS or ABVE
OR		
Bachelors Degree	2 years full-time industrial insurance experience	and CRC or CDMS

CRC = Certified Rehabilitation Counselor

CDMS = Certified Disability Management Specialist

ABVE = American Board of Vocational Experts

(b) VRCs registered with the department as of November 30, 2000, will be required to meet the qualification criteria in (a) of this subsection no later than November 30, 2010.

(c) The VRC assigned to or directly receiving the referral from the referral source is responsible for all work performed by any vocational provider on that referral.

(2) VRC supervisor of interns (supervisor).

(a) ~~((In order to supervise interns providing vocational rehabilitation services to industrially injured or ill workers beginning on or after December 1, 2000, the VRC supervisor must provide proof of five years full-time experience providing direct vocational services to Washington state injured~~

~~workers-))~~ The ((VRC)) supervisor must meet ((all-of)) the qualification requirements for a VRC in subsection (1)(a) and (b) of this section.

~~(b) ((Supervisors registered with the department as of November 30, 2000, will be required to meet the qualification criteria in (a) of this subsection no later than November 30, 2010-.~~

~~(c) The VRC supervisor is responsible for ensuring that all work performed by an intern for the department or self-insurer conforms with Title 51 RCW, department rules and department policies-.)~~ The supervisor must provide proof of a total of five years full-time experience providing, evaluating, analyzing and/or assessing vocational services. For the purposes of this rule, "vocational services" are those defined in WAC 296-19A-010(2). At least three of the five years must be under Title 51 RCW.

(c) A maximum of thirty-six months in intern status may be counted toward the five years of experience needed to become a supervisor.

(d) Supervisors are expected to monitor and assist in the training and professional development of interns under their supervision, in order to ensure that interns develop the requisite knowledge and professional skills to become competent VRCs. A supervisor's responsibilities, include, but are not limited to:

(i) Monitoring billing;

(ii) Monitoring work;

(iii) Monitoring professional behavior;

(iv) Promoting professional development and assisting the intern in meeting the department's requirements to become a VRC; and

(v) Communicating statute, rule and policy.

(3) Forensic services--In order to provide forensic services to the department, on or after the effective date of this rule, a VRC must provide proof of five years full-time experience providing direct vocational services to Washington state industrially injured or ill workers, and must possess a CRC or ABVE certification. Vocational providers previously approved to provide this service, under chapter 296-19A WAC, will retain that status.

(4) Intern.

(a) Interns not registered with the department and applying for a provider number with the department on or after December 1, 2000, must meet the following minimum qualifications:

Degree	Internship Length
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Masters Degree in field acceptable to CRC or CDMS or ABVE	Equal to required experience to obtain CRC or CDMS or ABVE certification including at least 1 year working with industrially injured or ill workers.
OR	
Bachelors Degree in field acceptable by CDMS	Equal to required experience to obtain CDMS certification including at least 2 years working with industrially injured or ill workers.

(b) Interns not registered with the department and applying for a provider number with the department on or after December 1, 2000, must obtain one of the required VRC certifications within one year of completing their required internship. Interns will remain in internship status during this time frame.

(c) Interns registered with the department as of November 30, 2000, will be required to apply for a provider number with the department and may work as an intern until the end of their current internship. Upon completion of the internship the intern may submit an application to the department as a VRC. These providers must obtain one of the required VRC certifications by November 30, 2010.

(d) All interns are required to conform to Title 51 RCW, department rules, and department policies. All interns granted a provider number by the department must be supervised by a VRC supervisor.

(e) No person shall serve as an intern under these rules for more than seventy-two months of full-time experience, or its equivalent, working with industrially injured or ill workers. The intern must notify the department when there is a change in the status of an internship.

(5) Interns may not receive referrals directly from the department or self-insured employers. Interns may perform aspects of vocational rehabilitation services under the supervision of a VRC supervisor.

(6) Providers who receive or are assigned referrals must comply with all electronic security requirements in place for accessing department files.

(7) Providers registered with the department as of November 30, 2000, who do not meet the above qualification requirements within the ten-year period will no longer be eligible to provide vocational rehabilitation services to industrially injured or ill workers and the department will terminate their provider number(s).

(8) Business requirements.

(a) Providers must comply with all federal and state laws, regulations and other requirements with regard to business operations. In order to be eligible to receive referrals from the department, providers must satisfy the requirements set

forth in this subsection in every service location in which they wish to operate.

(b) Providers must be covered by general liability insurance, automobile liability insurance, errors and omission insurance, malpractice insurance, and industrial insurance if required by Title 51 RCW.

(c) Providers must have services and facilities that provide injured workers a private and professionally suitable location in which to discuss vocational rehabilitation services issues. In order to be eligible to receive referrals from the department, providers must satisfy the requirements set forth in this subsection in every service location in which they wish to operate.

(d) Providers must have telephone-answering capability during regular business hours, Monday through Friday. In order to be eligible to receive referrals from the department, providers must satisfy the requirements set forth in this subsection in every service location in which they wish to operate.

(e) In order to receive referrals made by the department, providers must maintain or have access to equipment that can utilize the department's remote access system for transmitting vocational referrals.

(9) The department may assign a provider number to a vocational rehabilitation firm, partnership, corporation or other legal entity so long as substantial control over the daily management of the vocational rehabilitation firm, partnership, corporation or other legal entity is performed by a VRC that satisfies the qualifications set forth in this rule.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 03-11-009, filed 5/12/03, effective 7/1/03)

**WAC 296-19A-480 When must providers comply with these rules?** (1) The amendments to (~~the following section of chapter 296-19A~~) WAC 296-19A-210(2) become(~~s~~) effective (~~on~~) July 1, (~~2003~~:-

~~WAC 296-19A-137 "When can the department request a stand alone job analysis?")~~) 2004.

(2) The following amendments to chapter 296-19A WAC and new sections become effective February 1, 2004:

WAC 296-19A-010 "Definitions."

WAC 296-19A-020 "When may the department offer vocational rehabilitation services?"

WAC 296-19A-025 "What information does the department

consider when exercising discretion?"

WAC 296-19A-030 "What are the responsibilities of the parties?"

WAC 296-19A-040 "What vocational rehabilitation services require authorization?"

WAC 296-19A-045 "Which rules under 'department vocational rehabilitation referrals' apply only to the department?"

WAC 296-19A-060 "What reports does the department require when early intervention services are provided at its request?"

WAC 296-19A-065 "What are ability to work assessment (AWA) services?"

WAC 296-19A-070 "What is an ability to work assessment?"

WAC 296-19A-080 "How often must written progress reports be completed and submitted during assessment activities?"

WAC 296-19A-090 "What are vocational rehabilitation plan development services?"

WAC 296-19A-100 "What reports does the department require when vocational rehabilitation plan development services are provided at its request?"

WAC 296-19A-110 "What are vocational rehabilitation plan implementation and monitoring services?"

WAC 296-19A-120 "What reports does the department require when vocational rehabilitation plan implementation and monitoring services are provided at its request?"

WAC 296-19A-125 "What is the purpose of forensic services?"

WAC 296-19A-130 "What are the requirements for a forensic evaluation?"

WAC 296-19A-135 "What reports does the department require when forensic services are provided?"

WAC 296-19A-140 "What information must a provider include in a labor market survey?"

WAC 296-19A-170 "What information must a provider include in a job analysis?"

WAC 296-19A-180 "What job modification assistance benefits are available?"

WAC 296-19A-190 "How much is available for job modification assistance?"

WAC 296-19A-191 "What prejob accommodations are available?"

WAC 296-19A-192 "How much is available for prejob accommodations?"

WAC 296-19A-193 "What are the requirements for prejob accommodations?"

WAC 296-19A-200 "How does an employer apply for job modification assistance?"

WAC 296-19A-210 "What are the qualifications to provide vocational rehabilitation services to industrially injured or ill workers?"

WAC 296-19A-230 "Why does the department audit vocational rehabilitation providers?"

WAC 296-19A-240 "What authority does the department have to audit vocational rehabilitation providers?"

WAC 296-19A-245 "What is the department's formal appeal process?"

WAC 296-19A-260 "What are the possible consequences for a provider that does not comply with the RCWs, WACs or department policies?"

WAC 296-19A-270 "In what situation(s) can the department take corrective action(s)?"

WAC 296-19A-300 "How does the department evaluate performance when a vocational rehabilitation provider does not have either a performance rating with the department or previous experience delivering services to Washington injured workers?"

WAC 296-19A-350 "What are the requirements for case notes?"

WAC 296-19A-400 "What records are vocational rehabilitation providers required to maintain?"

WAC 296-19A-440 "What elements of a vocational determination may be disputed?"

(3) All remaining sections of chapter 296-19A WAC shall remain in full force and effect.