

Work Capacity Evaluations – How do they help identify rehabilitation options?

Specialist functional assessments are designed to identify key issues of the functional impact of any injury. They objectively measure capacity for work and ability to manage activities of daily living. They enable informed decision making about how best to drive cases forward either by investment in targeted vocational rehabilitation or to move towards settlement.

Here we set out how a **Work Capacity Evaluation** highlighted a way ahead for the parties involved. This may not always involve a full return to work, in some cases it is about removing the barriers to realistic vocational outcomes that then allow the parties to understand and agree upon the likely future outcome and achieve an earlier settlement of the case.

Case Background

- *Old accident – 2 years since injury*
- *No ongoing medical or vocational input*
- *Seemingly settled medical position with physical restrictions*
- *No active return to work plan*
- *Poor pre-accident work history*



The injured client, a man in his early 20's, had suffered an injury to his foot which required corrective surgery to improve his balance and walking ability. After surgery he was left with restricted function but no further intervention was planned by the NHS.

Two years post accident PVS was instructed. Immediately prior to the accident he was unemployed although he did have some pre-accident work history. Two years post accident he was still unemployed and living on benefits. He was, therefore, both socially and economically isolated. This had exacerbated his previous history of a limited working career and poor vocational skills.

The parties were concerned about his inactivity and the potential for this to become permanently ingrained with the consequent impact on his ability to work and his physical and psychological wellbeing. At this point there was no prospect of the client re-entering the work place.

A Work Capacity Evaluation (WCE) was requested offering a unique joint functional and vocational assessment to identify what support could be offered to aid the client's ability to return to employment.



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



URS is a member of Registrar of Standards (Holdings) Ltd.
Certificate No: 60364/A/0001/UK/En

Inspire • Excel • Achieve • With Integrity

Proclaim Care Limited, 2 Cadzow Park, 82 Muir Street, Hamilton, ML3 6BJ
Telephone: 01698 207755 e-mail: helpis@proclaim-care.co.uk
Registered in Scotland No. 287770

The WCE identified his functional ability. His level of general physical de-conditioning significantly impacted on his ability to manage activities of daily living and was a major barrier even to considering a return to work. Assessment of his vocational capacity also identified realistic alternative employment opportunities that would require minimal training in conjunction with improvements to his general conditioning.

A rehabilitation plan was devised with the objective of helping the client return to a position where he could actively seek work. The key components included:-

- A short gym based programme to rebuild his stamina
- A driving assessment
- A one to one job searching support programme, including CV preparation, letter writing and objective setting.

Outcome

- The client is now in a position both physically and vocationally to re-enter the job market which was his pre-accident state
- His improved physical conditions means he can manage activities of daily living and work demands commensurate with his post-operative physical restrictions
- He has acquired basic vocational skills to enable him to seek suitable employment positions in the future
- His physical and psychological wellbeing has improved to the point where he has re-integrated with peers socially and economically

Proclaim Vocational Services offer a number of specialist functional assessments including;

- **Work Capacity Evaluation**
- **Workplace Functional Capacity Evaluation**
- **Functional Capacity Evaluation**
- **Ergonomic Evaluation**

If you would like to learn more about PVS services please visit our website www.proclaim-care.co.uk
To arrange a specific discussion of your requirements or to see a sample report please contact:-

Our Business Development Team at
helpis@proclaim-care.co.uk