Vocational Medical Services

Vocational Medical Services (VMS) can be used at lots of different points in a client's rehabilitation. There are many options, because each client is an individual and has a different vocational rehabilitation journey. This diagram demonstrates opportunities for using VMS to help clients engage in work quickly and safely.

Commonly used terms:

VRS	Vocational Rehabilitation Services				
SAW	Stay At Work (programme)				
VMA	Vocational Medical Assistance				
VMR	Vocational Medical Review				
VMS	Vocational Medical Services				
IRP	Individual Rehabilitation Plan				
VI	Vocational Independence				
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation				
IOA	Initial Occupational Assessment				
IMA	Initial Medical Assessment				
WC	Weekly Compensation				
WR	Work Readiness (programme)				
JB	Job Brokerage (programme)				
VIOA	Vocational Independence				
	Occupational Assessment				
VIMA	Vocational Independence Medical				
	Assessment				
RTW FF	Return To Work Fully Fit				
FFSW	Fit For Selected Work				
JSS	Job Search Service (programme)				



Vocational Medical Services

Supporting a client's vocational rehabilitation

Services	Definition	Examples	Who can access	Service item
VMA – Liaison	Clinical vocational rehabilitation (VR) advice received by email or phone. A total of five instances (combined with case conference) are pre-approved .	Remi's GP or VRS provider has general questions about his client's injury (a broken clavicle) and how it relates to the functional requirements of his occupation as a carpenter.	GP VRS Provider ACC Case owner	VMA01
VMA – Case Conference	Advice and clinical leadership through attending a case conference in person or by phone. Done to help progress a client's VR when rehabilitation has stalled or an issue has been identified that requires resolution. A total of five instances (combined with liaison) are pre-approved .	James' rehabilitation has stalled. A discussion with all his rehabilitation providers together may clarify misunderstandings about his current level of fitness. It may also help to regain traction on the programme and build his confidence.	GP (on eACC18 Medical Certificate) VRS Provider ACC Case owner	VMA02
Vocational Medical Review (VMR)	Specialist medical assessment and report to help a client engage in work quickly and safely after an injury. The VMR can assist a client's rehabilitation where medical aspects of 'Fitness for Work' are unclear. The VMR can help identify treatment and rehabilitation options. A total of three instances are pre-approved.	There's a difference of opinion between Rachel's VRS provider and her GP about her proposed return to work plan, so a VMR would help to determine a way forward. Rachel's GP will be contacted to discuss any injury management issues, recommendations and additional information or concerns to help inform the VMR report.	GP (on eACC18 Medical Certificate) VRS Provider ACC Case owner	VMR01
Vocational Medical Review Communication	A compulsory component of the VMR is the assessor contacting the GP, employer and VRS provider to share critical information that supports the client's rehabilitation.			VMR02
IMA – Standard	Initial Medical Assessment (IMA) is used to identify if the types of work identified in the initial occupational assessment (IOA) are, or are likely to be, medically sustainable for the client.	Henare injured his back while stocking shelves at the supermarket and his medical specialist and/or VMR indicated he may not be able to return to this type of work. He's going to have an IMA after his Initial Occupational Assessment (IOA) to look at all his work options.	ACC Case owner	VMI01
Section 103 Report	After a VMR or IMA is complete, an ACC case owner may request the assessor to consider whether the client can engage in their pre-injury role via a Section 103 Report. This report is a stand alone report, separate to the VMR or IMA report.	ACC asks the assessor to consider if Sean has recovered enough from his shoulder injury to be able to work as a gardener.	ACC Case owner	VMS01
VIMA – Standard	The VIMA is an assessment and report used to determine if a client's rehabilitation is complete and the client has the ability to return to suitable work for 30 hours per week or more.	Ahmit has finished all the rehabilitation recommended in his IMA and had a work trial where he worked 30 hours a week. ACC requests a VIMA to confirm that his rehabilitation is complete and that Ahmit is able to sustain a selection of job types identified in the Vocational Independence Occupational Assessment (VIOA).	ACC Case owner	VMV01
IMA – Complex VIMA – Complex	A Complex IMA or VIMA can be used for any client whose case relates to a Serious Injury, who has a covered Sensitive Claim, whose injury is a moderate to severe traumatic brain injury, or where it's been 2.5 years since the date of their covered injury.	Mary, an arborist who received a moderate traumatic brain injury while felling a tree, now requires a VIMA. Because of her injury type , Mary meets the complex criteria.	ACC Case owner	VM102 VMV02
Reassessment VMR Reassessment IMA Reassessment VIMA	A follow-up assessment or review subsequent to a VMR, IMA or VIMA may occur upon referral from a case owner. The criteria, time frames and conditions for reassessments are the same as for the initial assessment.	Jane had a VMR before her return to work programme started and is now having some difficulty. The VRS provider thinks an investigation is warranted, which requires more than a case conference or liaison, so refers her for a reassessment VMR.	VRS Provider (VMRO3 only) ACC Case owner	VMR03 VMI03 VMV03

