



Vocational Rehabilitation Success Stories and Tips

Network 7 is pleased to share feedback from Florida nephrology social workers, who report positive Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) outcomes due to implementing and/or revising facility practices. Comments regarding the usefulness of VR resources, recommendations, and lessons learned are always welcomed by the Network.

Success Stories

“I referred 3 patients to VR. All were assigned to a VR Counselor, but were placed on a wait list. I then referred them to the local Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Organization. All 3 patients received individual counseling regarding career development and employment. Additionally, the WIPA Coordinator came to my dialysis center to provide education to other patients, and assist with their question.”

“I referred an ideal candidate to VR, and was invited to provide an in-service on transplantation to the Area VR Office.”

“I informed a patient, who was on Medicaid, that he could continue to keep his Social Security Benefits and work. He followed through with VR, and now has a part-time job as a security guard.”

“I visit the VR office on a quarterly basis, and provide education about VR.”

“I referred a patient to VR. They funded a 6-month training and licensing as a Home Inspector; provided a personal computer and printer; and now he works full-time.”

Tips

- Contact and build a relationship with VR counselors
- Meet with VR counselors in their office or in the dialysis facility
- Educate VR counselors about kidney failure and patients’ ability to work
- Hold “VR Days” for patients and families with successfully rehabilitated patients and VR counselors
- Provide facility staff and physicians education on vocational rehabilitation
- Post VR materials and profiles of consenting rehabilitated patients in facilities’ public areas
- Advocate at the facility for home dialysis referrals and prioritizing treatment around patients’ work schedules
- Use the tracking tool developed by Network 7, that allows for easy monitoring of patients receiving VR services, working or in school
- Review monthly VR outcomes in Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) meetings and adjust team VR goals, activities and interventions