# Vocational Rehabilitation Services Manual C-800: Neurodevelopmental and Psychological Services

Revised April 1, 2021

## Introduction

Within the scope of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), services that support individuals with neurodevelopmental or psychological disorders may be available to eligible VR customers.

Neurodevelopmental disorders are a group of conditions with onset in the developmental period, typically early in development. The range of developmental deficits varies from very specific limitations of learning or control of executive functions to global impairments of social skills or intelligence. Neurodevelopmental disorders frequently co-occur with each other. For example, individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) often have an intellectual disability, and many children with attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) have a learning disability, as stated by the DSM-5.

A psychological disorder refers to a spectrum of mental disorders or conditions that influence our emotions, cognitions, and/or behaviors. Psychological disabilities may include depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder.

Neurodevelopmental and psychological services may be available through VR only when:

* comparable benefits or supports are not available; and
* the service is necessary for the customer to reach his or her identified individualized plan for employment (IPE) goals.

For more information about requirements for using comparable benefits, refer to [D-200: Purchasing Goods and Services, D-203-3: Use of Comparable Benefits](https://twc.texas.gov/vr-services-manual/vrsm-d-200#d203-3).

For more information about developing the customer's IPE, refer to B-500: Individualized Plan for Employment.

As part of VR, neurodevelopmental and psychological services are short-term services that focus on helping the customer achieve competitive integrated employment. When long-term treatment and supports are necessary, the customer must plan to access these ongoing supports and services independent of VR. The VR counselor may work with the customer to provide referral and information about available resources to meet these ongoing needs within the scope of counseling and guidance. For more information, refer to C-100: Counseling and Guidance.

If a counselor has determined that an exception will facilitate a customer’s progress and there is not an approval exception listed in policy, counselors are encouraged to staff the request through their chain of management to the Deputy Division Director for Field Services for consideration. VRSM clearly states when no exceptions are allowed.

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## C-804: Psychological Services

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### C-804-2: Psychological Services Limits

Psychological Services are limited to the purchase of psychotherapy and outpatient psychiatric treatment. VR does not pay for inpatient psychiatric treatment. No exceptions to this policy are allowed. VR customers who need this level of treatment must be referred to the local mental health authority.

Outpatient sessions with qualified providers are limited to:

* a maximum of 15 individual sessions;
* a maximum 30 group sessions; or
* some combination of the two.

Exceptions require VR Supervisor approval.

Visits to a psychiatrist for medication monitoring only are not subject to these limitations but are subject to limitations on outpatient treatment. For further information, see [C-700: Medical Services](https://twc.texas.gov/vr-services-manual/vrsm-c-700).

Repeating the purchase of any psychological or neuropsychological assessment or evaluation requires the approval of a VR Supervisor.

Requests for psychological or neuropsychological tests not listed in the Maximum Affordable Payment Schedule (MAPS) require consultation with the Regional Psychological Consultant (RPC) .

Actions that are contrary to the advice of the RPC require consultation with the VR Manager and approval by the state medical director.

Evaluation or treatment of customers by the RPC requires approval by the VR Supervisor.

For policies, procedures, and restrictions that apply to the purchase of prescription medications, refer to [C-703-24: Prescription Drugs and Medical Supplies](https://twc.texas.gov/vr-services-manual/vrsm-c-700#c703-24).

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## C-808: Supportive Residential Services

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### C-808-4: Supportive Residential Services Limits

VR does not sponsor Supportive Residential Services until:

* after the customer has been determined eligible for VR services; and
* the service is included on the customer's IPE or IPE amendment.

VR may purchase up to 90 days of residential treatment, in 30-day increments, when the customer demonstrates progress toward established goals and objectives as outlined in the treatment plan and [VR3384, Supportive Residential Services Progress Report](https://twc.texas.gov/forms/index.html).

The customer must participate in a recovery program, abide by residential rules, and be actively working toward mastering work-readiness skills or obtaining competitive integrated employment for additional time to be approved.

If there is a need for VR-sponsored residential services for more than 90 days:

1. the VR Supervisor's review and approval is required in 30-day increments for continued sponsorship to ensure that the customer is continuing to make measurable, predefined progress toward established goals and objectives; and
2. [VR3472, Contracted Service Modification Request](https://twc.texas.gov/forms/index.html) must be submitted and approved prior to services being authorized.

For additional information, see [D-210-4: Completing VR3472, Contracted Service Modification Request](https://twc.texas.gov/vr-services-manual/vrsm-d-200#d210-4).

### C-808-5: Standards for Supportive Residential Services

For more information about specific standards for providers of Supportive Residential Services, including staff qualifications, facility requirements, program requirements, and fees, refer to [VR-SFP Chapter 11: Supportive Residential Services for Persons in Recovery](https://twc.texas.gov/standards-manual/vr-sfp-chapter-11).