



Return to Work Services

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Cleveland Clinic Return to Work Services

Cleveland Clinic's Return to Work Services (RTWS) offers specialized evaluations and programs that help patients return to the workforce after work-related injuries or other disorders have limited their ability to work. Our services are coordinated by a treatment team that offers an individualized evaluation and treatment plan to prepare participants to return to work in a safe, productive and positive manner.

RTWS is part of the Neurological Institute's Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, a leading provider of rehabilitation services. Our team is made up of licensed and certified rehabilitation professionals, including physical and occupational therapists, vocational rehabilitation counselors, ergonomic specialists, and physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians. RTWS has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) since 1988. Our RTWS programs, Occupational Rehabilitation and Work Conditioning, met the annual conformance requirements for quality standards in 2009, achieving an additional three-year CARF accreditation.

Occupational rehabilitation and work conditioning services are provided at the W.O. Walker Center, located at the corner of Stokes Boulevard and Euclid Avenue on Cleveland Clinic's main campus.



2009 Annual Outcomes Update

Demographics and Patient Characteristics

Occupational Rehabilitation Program

Gender: 65% male, 35% female

Number of participants: 23 (all completed the program)

Average age: 44 years

Average time from injury to program entry: 134 weeks

Work Conditioning

Gender: 72% male, 28% female

Number of participants: 37 (34 completed the program)

Average age: 46 years

Average time from injury to program entry: 126 weeks

Injury Type

Occupational Rehabilitation Program

37% spine

27% upper extremity

37% lower extremity

Work Conditioning

46% spine

31% upper extremity

23% lower extremity

Patient Satisfaction

5.0 scale, where 5.0 is "completely satisfied":

Occupational Rehabilitation Program rated 4.76

Work Conditioning rated 4.63

Return to Work Statistics

Occupational Rehabilitation Program

Percent of participants at 3-month follow-up working or work-ready among those completing program: 87%

Work Conditioning

Percent of participants work-ready at discharge among those completing program: 86%

Programs and Services

Occupational Rehabilitation Program

This comprehensive, multidisciplinary, work-hardening program facilitates return to work. Services include: an individualized physical rehabilitation plan formulated by occupational and physical therapists, on-site job analysis to establish measurable return-to-work goals, work simulation activities, safety education, aquatics, vocational rehabilitation and psycho-social counseling, recommendations on potential job modifications and weekly team meetings to review progress. Program is five times per week for up to eight weeks.

Work Conditioning

This work-focused therapeutic intervention and functional restoration program, provided by physical and occupational therapists, involves whole-body conditioning, work simulation activities, and patient education on ergonomics and injury prevention. Program may be three to five times per week for up to eight weeks.

Personalized Occupational and Physical Therapy

These services include injury-specific therapeutic exercises, aquatics, patient education, simulation of work activities and injury prevention strategies.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Services include comprehensive vocational evaluations, vocational screenings, career counseling, adjustment to disability counseling, job-seeking skills training, job placement and vocational rehabilitation case management.

Functional Capacity Evaluation

The assessment of functional abilities includes material-handling capacities, consistency of effort and reliability testing to establish a client's ability to return to work.



Job Site Analysis

This evaluation of specific job demands includes assessment of physical and environmental factors pertinent to return to work.

Ergonomic Study

Our assessment of the fit between worker and job requirements at the work site helps to resolve ergonomic challenges.

Additional Services at Cleveland Clinic

Also offered are: chemical dependency treatment, chronic pain rehabilitation, cognitive rehabilitation, driver's evaluation/rehabilitation, orthotics and prosthetics, and vestibular and balance evaluation/rehabilitation.

Contact Us

For scheduling of services or further information, please call Return to Work Services at **216.444.WORK (216.444.9675)** or 800.223.2273, ext. 49675; or 216.444.0261 (TTY hearing impaired). Visit us online at clevelandclinic.org/ReturnToWork.
