

Workers Compensation

In this focus area, IVS provides independent assessments and vocational expert testimony for workers compensation cases in Minnesota. Assessments provide a second opinion for other vocational rehabilitation services and opinions that have been rendered on cases in dispute or seeking settlement.

Assessment services and vocational expert testimony for workers compensation cases in Minnesota include the following:

1. **Medical File Review** - IVS reviews pertinent medical files and provides an opinion on medical treatment findings including the vocational implications of these findings. Case specific research of medical literature is conducted to assess and/or clarify vocational implications of medical conditions that lack specificity in the Treating Physician Reports of Work Ability.
2. **Vocational Testing** - Comprehensive vocational testing by IVS highlights transferable skills, suitable vocational goals and recommendations for retraining when appropriate. Vocational Testing is made up of 15 subtests which involve both computerized and work sample measures of aptitudes, abilities, memory, and interests. A Comprehensive Profile identifies environmental condition limitations, physical restrictions, and work temperament. IVS testing identifies transferable skills within the individual's tested aptitudes, abilities, and interests. The analysis of transferable skills includes the utilization of a job bank (database of more than 12,000 jobs) for suitable matching of transferable skills to jobs. Suitable vocational goals are identified that may result in direct job placement or retraining recommendations. Job goals include reports of physical demands for job analysis as well as labor market data published by the Department of Economic Security (data includes wages and number of jobs in all geographical regions in the United States). IVS can conduct in-depth Vocational Testing services where needed, including the client's home or one of many nearby offices.
3. **Labor Market Survey** - IVS conducts research of employer labor pools using a combination of the following occupational resources: Department of Economic Security (and other electronic databases of employment opportunities), educational institution recruitment statistics, and employer contacts (via internet, telephone, mail, and in person). IVS systematically gathers occupational information pertinent to employment opportunities and employment suitability of specified job goal(s) to be considered as part of a rehabilitation plan. Labor market survey research is conducted primarily to assess retraining plan goals.
4. **Retraining** – IVS develops detailed retraining plans when appropriate, to help an injured worker prepare for an earning capacity at/above the level they enjoyed before the work injury occurred.

5. **Expert Testimony** - IVS will provide vocational expert court testimony to communicate vocational findings and clarify vocational opinions.

Who Benefits from IVS services and How:

1. **Injured Workers** - benefit from the detailed assessment of their vocational options from an IVS vocational expert, as IVS provides a totally independent perspective.
2. **Attorneys Representing Injured Workers** - benefit from an IVS vocational expert who provides an independent assessment of their client's vocational options. This will assist in establishing the direction and economic value of a claim. An opinion from a vocational expert at IVS also provides an opportunity to establish a second vocational opinion when the rehabilitation plan provided by a former consultant is not adequate to restore the individual to suitable earnings. An independent vocational expert opinion is often necessary when an employer or insurer employs their own vocational expert.
3. **Insurers and Employers** - benefit from assistance by an IVS vocational expert who can provide an independent vocational assessment when an insurer or employer is establishing the exposure of a claim.