

6.6 Disabilities (physical, mental & learning disabilities)

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(some time-limited core)

Legal References:

- [RCW 74.08A.250](#)

The *Disabilities* section includes:

- [6.6.1](#) What are medical conditions?
- [6.6.2](#) Guiding principles
- [6.6.3](#) Basic Process
- [6.6.4](#) How do I get medical evidence?
- [6.6.5](#) How do I complete the medical evidence IRP?
- [6.6.6](#) How do I pay for medical evidence?
- [6.6.7](#) How do I evaluate evidence and establish participation requirements?
- [6.6.8](#) eJAS Codes
- [6.6.9](#) Medical Conditions - Step-by-Step Guide

6.6.3 Basic Process

As shown in the [Medical Evidence Evaluation Basic Flow Chart](#), WorkFirst will use a consistent process to respond when we become aware that a participant may have a physical disorder (XM), a mental or emotional disorder (XG) or a learning disability (XJ). Throughout the process, we accommodate limitations and require the participant to participate as full-time as possible.

Start by obtaining medical evidence so we know what the participant can and cannot do. Get the medical evidence even if you know the participant has applied for SSI on his or her own. We need the evidence to determine whether the participant qualifies for a WorkFirst deferral or exemption, and whether we will facilitate the participant's SSI application.

Once the evidence is in, triage the case with a social service specialist as needed, and assign the case as follows:

- The WFPS handles the case when a physical, mental or emotional condition (XM or XG) is expected to last 3 months or less.
- As conditions get longer-term or more complex, social service specialists may handle the case to make decisions and establish IRP requirements.
- ~~participants~~ Participants with severe and chronic medical conditions will be assessed for SSI and, if they want to work, we may refer to DVR for services.

- The SSI Facilitator helps viable candidates apply for SSI and monitors their progress.

6.6.5 How do I complete the medical evidence IRP?

Complete the IRP using the OR eJAS component code requiring the participant to obtain medical evidence within 30 days. Offer to help the participant obtain the evidence as needed. Get supervisory approval before you give the participant more than 30 days to obtain medical evidence.

If needed, you can extend the time in 30-day increments with supervisory approval, if you also do the following:

- Document why more time is needed in eJAS notes
- See if you can help the participant get evidence sooner
- Consider referring the participant to a social service specialist for help in obtaining evidence.

The OR IRPOR IRP template requires the participant to provide the DSHS 10-353 form or alternative medical evidence that provides the:

- Diagnosis,
- How long their medical condition is expected to last,
- Specific limitations stemming from their medical condition,
- Treatment plans, and
- The number of hours per week the participant can work, look for work or prepare for work.

The **OR IRP** template also requires chart notes for the current medical condition unless the condition is expected to last for 3 months or less.

Resources

Related WorkFirst Handbook Sections

- [6.1 Resolving Issues - Overview](#)
- [3.2.1 Comprehensive Evaluation](#)
- [3.2.3 Pathway Development Tool](#)
- ~~[3.2.2 Initial Comprehensive Evaluation](#)~~
- ~~[3.2.3 Comprehensive Evaluation Updates](#)~~
- [6.8 Exemptions](#)