Specialty Examination – NEUROLOGY

In instances when a Specialty Examination is requested, the Contractor shall provide the DDDS and its DDDS claimants with the following, *in addition to*, the Adult General Medical Disability Evaluation and Report Guidelines.

The examination should concentrate on the areas affected by the DDDS claimant's illness or impairment. Provide specific information and be as descriptive as possible.

(1) **Neurological Examination.**

(a) Current Medical History. Describe and discuss:
  i. Cognitive impairment
  ii. Motor weakness
  iii. Sensory abnormalities
  iv. Problems with speech
  v. Problems with swallowing
  vi. Problems with voiding and defecation
  vii. Cooperation with taking medication as prescribed and response to treatment
  viii. Blood levels, if available
  ix. Headaches. Include known triggers, frequency, length and response to treatment

(b) Coordination
  i. Abnormal movements
  ii. Tremors
  iii. Incoordination

(c) Motor Function
  i. Describe all motor function in quantitative terms and method of quantification
  ii. Comment on degree of fatigability following rapid, repetitive movements
  iii. Describe and atrophy, flaccidity, spasticity, rigidity, limitation of movement, and fatigability of extremities

(d) Alleged Fatigue (i.e. myasthenia gravis)
  i. Test for ability to fatigue by exercise (i.e. ptosis develops after 1-minute of attempted up gaze or strength declines from 5/5 at rest to 2/5 after 10-minutes of exercise of a particular muscle

(e) Cranial Nerve Functions
  i. Visual acuity and confrontation visual fields
  ii. Pupillary responses to light and accommodation
  iii. Examination of extraocular movements or presence of nystagmus
  iv. Facial sensation including corneal reflex and masseter strength and bulk
  v. Facial muscle strength and symmetry
  vi. Hearing Test
  vii. Other functions as appropriate such as gag reflex, neck muscle strength, ability to detect odors, and tongue movement (strength or atrophy)

(f) Sensory Function
  i. Pattern. Anatomic or non-anatomic
  ii. Characteristics of any type of pain and relationship to underlying disorder

(g) Mental Status Exam. Describe and give examples of:
  i. Orientation
  ii. Memory
  iii. Calculation
  iv. Insight
  v. General understanding

  vi. Fund of knowledge
  vii. Mood and behavior

(h) Speech. Describe:
  i. Intelligibility and fluency
  ii. Aphasia. Including ability to comprehend language or produce language either spoken or written
  iii. Dysarthria
  iv. Stuttering
  v. Involuntary vocalizations

(i) Seizures. Provide complete description, including:
  i. Type and severity
  ii. Auras
  iii. Behavior prior to seizure
  iv. Diurnal or nocturnal
  v. Frequency per month during the past year
  vi. Duration of episodes
  vii. Postictal phenomena
  viii. Dates of last three seizures