

# REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

## Informational Sheet



### **REHABILITATIVE SERVICES PROGRAM**

The goal of the Rehabilitative Services Program is to maximize a disability benefit recipient's employability through clinical and vocational rehabilitative services. If you elect to participate in the Rehabilitative Services Program, the medical and vocational information acquired through the Rehabilitative Services Program may be used in the determination of your continued eligibility for a disability benefit.

### **Clinical Rehabilitative Services**

These services are a collaborative approach to ensure disability benefit recipients are undergoing appropriate continued medical treatment, consistent with professional standards of care and to assist recipients in improving their disabling condition(s), and co-morbid condition(s), which are additional medical conditions that impact the disabling condition.

### **Vocational Rehabilitative Services**

These services provide recipients with the appropriate vocational resources and tools, including local and state resources, to assist recipients in their efforts to seek employment in the competitive labor market.

### **Benefits of Rehabilitative Services**

- If you are participating in rehabilitative services that are acceptable to the OPERS Board of Trustees, you will be reviewed under the "own occupation" standard for disability and your leave of absence period can be extended from three years up to a total of five years. "Own occupation" standard means you are physically or mentally incapable of performing the duties of your last public employment position.
- Rehabilitative Services strategies focus on addressing your disabling and co-morbid conditions, which maximize your functionality.
- You are assigned a clinical nurse case manager who will contact you to discuss your treatment and to perform ongoing assessments.
- Your case manager will work directly with you and your physician to obtain information about your current treatment protocol, progression/deterioration of your medical condition(s), and to establish future treatment expectations.
- You are provided information and resources for ongoing education and management of your disabling and co-morbid conditions.
- You will be provided with an Employment Readiness packet, which includes employment readiness resources in your respective community.

## Selection of Rehabilitative Services

If you would like to participate in Rehabilitative Services you must make your selection no later than six months prior to your third benefit anniversary. If you elect to withdraw from Rehabilitative Services you will only have one additional opportunity to elect back into the program.

## Rehabilitative Services Compliance

- You are required to follow your physician-directed medical treatment plan inclusive of, but not limited to, doctor appointments, prescribed treatment plans, medication regimens, and resource programs.
- You are required to respond to your case manager within 14 days from his/her written request for documentation or request for a return phone call.

## What happens if you choose not to participate in Rehabilitative Services?

If you choose not to participate in rehabilitative services, you will be required to engage in continued medical treatment which will be monitored by OPERS. You will be required to submit to us a *Continued Medical Treatment* form at each scheduled treatment interval. The *Continued Medical Treatment* form will be mailed to you on a semi-annual basis. This form will need to be completed by the physician who is treating your disabling condition(s). The *Continued Medical Treatment* form must be completed by a physician who is either a Medical Doctor (MD) or a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO).

- Your leave of absence period will be for three years from your disability benefit effective date.
- After three years of receiving a disability benefit you will be evaluated under the “any occupation” standard for disability. The “any occupation” standard means the disability benefit recipient is physically or mentally capable of performing the duties of any position which meets the following criteria:
  - a) The salary of the position replaces at least 75 percent of the member’s final average salary (inflation adjusted).
  - b) The position is reasonably found in the member’s regional job market.
  - c) A position for which the recipient is qualified to do based on his/her education or experience.