

Policy Transmittal Vocational Rehabilitation



Heather Lindsey, Deputy Director

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Number: VR-PT 19-03

Issue date: 12/13/2019

Topic: Other

Due date: 12/13/2019

Transmitting (check the box that best applies):

- New policy
 Policy change
 Policy clarification
 Executive letter
 Administrative Rule
 Manual update
 Other:

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: {Select type} | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Intensive In Home Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD program managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): Vocational Rehabilitation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Residential Services | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs | |

Policy/rule title:	Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Policy Update		
Policy/rule number(s):	Update VR-PT-15-07	Release number:	
Effective date:	12/06/2019	Expiration date:	
References:	OHA Health Licensing Office OAR 331-670-0010 Practice Standards; 34 CFR 361.54		
Web address:	https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action;JSES SIONID_OARD=Ma6QePAeglnEz5KdouKCi7P22BZI_5czC5k-Trn3M_fF8wMwVVb6!-1140602436?ruleVrsnRsn=261252		

Message:

Effective Immediately; if a licensed audiologist or licensed hearing instrument specialist requests authorization for either:

- additional Puretone Air/Bone testing **or**
- a new comprehensive audiological evaluation before fitting a hearing aid

VR staff may approve the procedure.

Discussion/interpretation:

This change in policy is due to a change in the OAR for hearing aid dispensers (including licensed audiologists). They are now required to use comprehensive hearing test results that are no more than 180 days (6 months) old as of the date of hearing aid fitting. If those test results are more than 90 days (3 months) but less than 180 days (6 months) old, the practitioner must do updated pure tone testing before fitting the hearing aid.

Examples:

Comprehensive hearing test is 45 days old	Practitioner can fit the hearing aid without additional testing
Comprehensive hearing test is 10 months old	Practitioner must do new comprehensive hearing testing before fitting a hearing aid
Comprehensive hearing test is 5 months old	Practitioner must do updated Pure Tone Air and Bone Conduction testing before fitting a hearing aid

For more detailed information, see OHA Health Licensing Office [OAR 331-670-0010](#) which became effective November 1, 2019.

Training/communication plan:

1. Supervisors: review and discuss transmittal with field staff.
2. Field Staff: review and discuss transmittal and address questions to supervisors.
3. Supervisors: after field level review and discussion of the transmittal, send consolidated requests for clarification to VR State Coordinator for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services (VR SCD).
4. VR SCD: provide clarification.

Local/branch action required:

Effective immediately, if a licensed audiologist or licensed hearing instrument specialist requests authorization for either:

- additional Puretone Air/Bone testing or
 - a new comprehensive audiological evaluation before fitting a hearing aid for a client
- VR staff may approve the procedure.

Central office action required: Monitor Health Licensing Board OARs and communicate changes to field staff.

Field/stakeholder review: Yes No

If yes, reviewed by: SRC Policy Committee, VR Leadership

Filing instructions: Place on internal and external websites.

If you have any questions about this policy, contact:

Contact(s): Sheila Hoover, VR State Coordinator for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services	
Phone:	Fax:
Email: vr.fieldservices@dhsosha.state.or.us	