

Referral and Assessment Process

The referral process begins with contact between our admissions staff and any of several parties involved in the patient's care. Such parties might include the attending physician, nurse case manager, vocational rehabilitation counselor, or insurance or MCO representative. Clinic admission's staff seeks to obtain authorization of the initial evaluation and make arrangements for an initial appointment. At the initial evaluation, the patient is assessed by a physician and psychologist, each of whom conduct a clinical interview and obtain the patient's history, review available records and diagnostic studies, and complete a detailed examination. An additional assessment with a vocational specialist may also be completed, if requested. Following the initial evaluations, the initial assessment team meets to discuss the findings, make recommendations including appropriateness for treatment in our functional restoration program. NWOMC recommendations for a functional restoration treatment for the past 5 years has averaged approximately 40% annually. The remaining patients may not be appropriate candidates at that time or other treatment approaches may be offered for consideration.