

## **Vocational Services**

Vocational services provided within the context of a functional restoration program often involve close coordination of the program's vocational specialist with the externally assigned vocational rehabilitation counselor. Effective communication between the internal and external vocational providers allows for rapid problem solving if difficulties or challenges arise during treatment.

For pain management services to be truly effective within a return to work context, the presence of a clearly defined vocational goal or direction should be established prior to treatment and agreed upon by all parties. Upon entry into the program treatment efforts are then customized to help the patient achieve these goals, if feasible. Vocational services might include vocational testing to further clarify vocational strengths and limitations, vocational exploring, counseling to address issues of vocational adjustment, or job search skills training. In some instances, GED preparation may also be included to assist in vocational preparation. If a specific return to work site is already identified, then work site visits may also be arranged to address any needed job modifications.