



FACT SHEET

NeuroVocational Evaluation (NVE) vs. Neuropsychological Testing

The NVE is “the” evaluation of choice for predicting success at returning to work or school.

What is a NeuroVocational Evaluation (NVE) and how does it differ from Neuropsychological Testing?

During the development of the Resource Facilitation program it was determined there was a strong need to develop an examination that was a) specific to people with brain injury and b) based on a review of the research on predictors of return to work after brain injury. This led to the development of the **NeuroVocational Evaluation (NVE)**.

There are components of the NVE that are similar to a traditional neuropsychological examination, particularly with respect to cognitive and behavioral effects of brain injury. However, the research on predictors of successful return to work also identified other important factors such as substance abuse, vocational interests and barriers, transportation, family support, perceived disability and awareness, as well as coping style as relevant variables that can influence outcome. The NVE therefore has a significantly broader scope than Neuropsychological Testing. While Neuropsychological Testing is the diagnostic procedure of choice for determining diagnosis (e.g., depression vs. concussion), the **NVE is the evaluation of choice for predicting success at returning to work or school when the diagnosis (e.g., traumatic brain injury) has already been established.**

Neuropsychological Testing

Primary focus is on differential diagnosis, e.g.:

- Depression vs. Dementia
- Learning disability vs. ADHD
- Mild Traumatic Brain Injury vs. Malingering

Scope of testing is limited to cognitive, sensory, motor, language and perceptual abilities as well as personality functioning. However, testing is very rigorous to ensure reliable differential diagnosis.

Testing can be used to determine eligibility for VRS.

NeuroVocational Evaluation (NVE)

Primary focus is on the assessment of vocational barriers and resources specific to people with brain injury.

Scope of testing includes core cognitive functions and psychological status, but also incorporates:

- Vocational preferences
- Substance abuse
- Coping skills
- Level of disability associated with their injury
- Family and social support
- Transportation

The NVE can be used to determine eligibility for VRS.

The NVE Summary and recommendations include:

- Identified strengths and vocational Resources
- Vocational barriers
- Community resource strategies
- Resource Facilitation strategies and priorities