QUALIFICATIONS: Adaptive Sports Equipment

Clinical practice recommendation from the VHA Prosthetic Clinical Management Program states the qualifications are:

“Recreation Sports Equipment may be considered for issuance to any veteran who exhibits the loss or loss of use of a body part or function for which adaptive equipment is indicated. The prescribed equipment must be of a nature that specifically compensates for their loss of use and is designed for individuals with physical disabilities.”

All of the following additional specific indications must be met:

A. Medical Clearance
   1. Medically cleared with no contraindications
   2. Onset of disability occurred at least six months before permanent equipment is issued.
   3. Skin is intact across all surfaces that will be in contact with the prescribed equipment.

B. Comprehensive Education about the following:
   1. VA policy surrounding use of recreational sports equipment.
   2. Activities available in relation to the Veteran’s specific disability.
   3. Equipment options available for chosen recreational activity.

C. Demonstration of commitment to a chosen activity by one or more of the following:
   1. Participation log documenting frequency and duration of exercise or recreational pursuit.
   2. Registered member of organized activity or athletic team with evidence of consistent participation with the organized activity or team.
   3. Consistent participation in sport-specific camps or clinics.

D. Identify availability of consistent opportunity and access to chosen activity.

E. Complete equipment trials.

F. Evidence the selected device meets Veteran’s goals is documented.

G. Demonstrates safety and effectiveness when using the selected device including transfers to and from the device and comprehensive equipment management.

H. Identify a consistent means of transporting the device.

I. Identify appropriate means of storage for the device.
Adaptive Sports Clinic:

Members:
Physician from Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Service
Physical Therapist (Erin Brandon x7071)
Occupational Therapist (John Moossa x3585)
Recreational Therapist (Nicole Shuman x6433)

Adaptive Sports Clinic:
Held every Thursday. Veteran may be required to participate in several appointments in the Adaptive Sports Clinic as part of the evaluation process.

Process:
1. Veteran identifies interest in requesting adaptive sports equipment.
2. Veteran’s primary care physician places assistive technology consult.
3. Veteran attends adaptive sports clinic for initial assessment (physician and therapist evaluations) and education regarding the program.
4. Veteran trials various equipment to determine most appropriate option.
5. Veteran demonstrates qualification – participation log, team participation, etc.
7. Adaptive Sports Team and veteran determine the final recommendations for adaptive sports participation/equipment.
8. Equipment approval process:
   I. Equipment over $3,500:
      a. Assigned therapist completes necessary paperwork including assessment, 2641 (VA Central office require form), and quote from vendor,
      b. Paperwork is turned in to the Prosthetics Service,
      c. Prosthetics has 10 days to approve/deny and send to VISN6 Prosthetics,
      d. VISN6 Prosthetics has 10 days to approve/deny and send to VACO Prosthetics, and
      e. VACO Prosthetics has 10 days to approve/deny and send back to our Prosthetics Service
   II. Equipment under $3,500:
      a. Assigned therapist completes necessary paperwork including assessment,
      b. Paperwork is turned in to the Prosthetics Service,
      c. Prosthetics has 10 days to approve/deny.
9. Prosthetics has 7 days to complete purchase order.
10. Vendor completes order and mails equipment to the Richmond VA Medical Center.
11. Equipment is processed through the warehouse and is sent to the Prosthetics.
12. Prosthetics assembles equipment and notifies ordering therapist that the equipment is ready for distribution.
13. Veteran is scheduled for Adaptive Sports Clinic for final fitting.
14. Veteran attends clinic for final fitting, and if no modifications are required, takes equipment home with them.