

Disability Support Services – Equipment and Modification Services

12 August 2013

Approved and Credentialed EMS Assessor Re-credentialing Requirements and Updates

Following the completion of the Ministry of Health's (the Ministry) Equipment and Modification Services (EMS) Accreditation Framework evaluation, in April 2013, the following updates are now available.

Centralisation of Information

All information regarding the EMS Accreditation Framework, requirements and resources for approved and credentialed categories of assessment has now been placed on the disability funding information website www.disabilityfunding.co.nz. Information is no longer available via the HIIRC website.

The structure and layout of the disability funding website has changed slightly with the intention of making all information easier to locate via either professional group or approved/credentialed category.

Re-credentialing Requirements

All current credentialed assessors need to meet the requirements for re-credentialing categories of assessment as outlined on the disability funding information website under the EMS Assessors tab: www.disabilityfunding.co.nz/ems-assessors.

This is an internal assessment service based process requiring an employer or supervisor declaration. For those who became credentialed in 2010, this must be completed by 31 December 2013. Re-credentialing requirements have been developed with input from the relevant sector representatives or current credentialing panel members.

All EMS Assessors will be allocated a renewal date of either 30 June or 31 December. This renewal date will be calculated dependent on whether your initial credentialling was approved in the first or second half of the year. Within the six months prior to the renewal date of the credential, the EMS Assessor and their supervisor or employer must confirm they have completed the minimum requirements for renewal of the relevant credential.

Please click on the following links for the re-credentialing requirements as per credentialed category:

[Communication Assistive Technology Level 1 & 2](#)

[Housing Modifications Complex](#)

[Vehicle Purchase & Modifications Level 1 & 2](#)

[Wheeled Mobility & Postural Management Level 1 & 2](#)

There is no requirement for EMS Assessors (approved or credentialed) to recomplete the EMS core module unless they have been non-practicing for a period of three years or more. Approved categories do not have a re-credentialing requirement or an expiry date.

The function to apply for re-credentialing via EMS Assessor Online will be available from the 23rd September 2013. Enable New Zealand will send a further communication out regarding how to do this before this date.

Learning and Development Programmes

Since the implementation of the EMS accreditation framework in 2010 the Ministry has supported the implementation of a number of learning and development opportunities for EMS assessors. Assessment services (DHBs or NGOs) are now able to develop training programmes toward the credentialing or re-credentialing for categories of accreditation other than for complex housing.

Proposals for learning and development programmes must be submitted to the Ministry for approval (prior to commencement) using the guidelines as outlined in the Recognition of Learning and Development Programmes document, click on the link below:

[Recognition of Learning & Development Programmes](#)

Approval of additional Learning and Development programmes does not guarantee Ministry funding for such programmes

Housing Modification Workshops

The Ministry is currently in the process of developing a series of workshops focused on housing modifications. These workshops will be subsidised by the Ministry and it is the intention that completion of these workshops will be a requirement of credentialing (and possibly re-credentialing) for complex housing modifications in the future.

Clinical Indicators for Wheeled Mobility and Postural Management Level 1 and 2

Feedback from the recent EMS Accreditation Framework evaluation indicated a need to review the clinical indicators for differentiation between Wheeled Mobility and Postural Management Level 1 and Level 2. A review of the indicators and the processes for and selection of credentialing panel members will commence in the upcoming months.

Thank you for your participation in this EMS Accreditation Framework - we look forward to working with you as ongoing improvements are made.

Sue Primrose
Development Manager
Disability Support Services