



Department of Veterans Affairs

In Reply Refer To:

June 14, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

The following letter is provided for information related to how the Interactive Metronome (IM) device has been used within the Western Blind Rehabilitation Center (WBRC) with the VA Palo Alto Healthcare System.


Two low vision and mobility therapists from the WBRC first became certified IM providers in 2009 to evaluate the IM device and to see how it could be incorporated within our inpatient population which consists of active duty service members and veterans with vision impairment.

The WBRC also hosts a vision loss and brain injury program (the Comprehensive Neurological Vision Rehabilitation (CNVR)) program for which the IM device became an integral treatment tool. The CNVR program has received two CARF exemplary awards for its innovation and incorporation of technology for this unique patient population. The IM device played a large role in the CARF review of our center, for which CARF reviewers participated in a hands on IM assessment to better understand the device.

Since the VA's purchase of the device in 2010 the IM has become a regularly used training tool to enhance existing treatment which featured training with metronomes during vision training exercises. The IM has also been used to assist in the development of the coordination of cane skills required for long cane use in travel for the blind. The device has been used to assist with sustained attention in veterans with brain injury and also helped encourage visual scanning with visual deficits, as well as ocular motor training. It also encourages bi-manual coordination and multi-tasking and has been used in conjunction with Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy goals for gait and balance training for many of these veterans. Veterans often find the training motivating and fun.

To date eight additional WBRC staff members have become certified IM providers. Two IM devices have since been purchased; one for the outpatient clinic and one for inpatient. The addition of this treatment tool has greatly added to service delivery for veterans that receive treatment at the WBRC.

Sincerely,


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