

ACUTE OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Acute conditions are those accidents or illnesses with a sudden onset and relatively short course. They demand urgent attention but are usually limited in their duration. It is expected practice that assistance with medical care for acute conditions will not be given unless:

- The consumer is eligible for and receiving rehabilitation services under an IPE prior to onset;
- The acute condition is such that, if untreated, it would constitute a hazard to the achievement of the consumer's vocational rehabilitation objective;
- Comparable benefits and economic need are applied, as appropriate, to the service provided; and
- The period of care is not expected to exceed 60 consecutive days in the case of any one illness or injury. The 60-day period includes necessary follow-up examination or treatment, as well as any intensive care required at the time of surgery or during the acute stages of the illness.

The following procedures are to be followed in authorizing emergency services:

- The nature of the condition should be ascertained to the degree the counselor is sure emergency services are necessary.
- The counselor may give oral authorization to the vendors concerned and services may be initiated immediately.

Written authorization to cover the oral authorization should be prepared on the same date.