

National Veterans Wheelchair Games Medical Forms and Clearance



Dear Provider,

You are being asked to medically clear your patient to participate in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG). The National Veterans Wheelchair Games provides opportunities for health and healing through 23 adaptive sports competitions and exhibition events reflecting adaptive sports opportunities available to Veterans in their home communities for year-long participation.

Participation is open to Veterans having spinal cord injuries, lower extremity amputations, multiple sclerosis, or other central neuro-muscular conditions. Physical disabilities must be permanent and measurable and require a wheelchair for sport participation. All Veterans registering for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games must be eligible to receive care at a VA medical facility. When a Veteran's diagnosis and eligibility to compete is in question, we will refer to the eligibility criteria appropriate for that person to participate in other community wheelchair sports organizations. **Medical clearance must be provided by a physician, physician assistant or a nurse practitioner.** A full and complete neuromuscular exam must be completed on all Veterans new to the NVWG and without a permanent classification. The neuromuscular exam portion can be provided by a physical therapist.

All activities include physical exertion and training is highly recommended prior to participating in the event. If the Veteran is new to the NVWG, we recommend a consult to a rehabilitation therapist/specialist to assist developing a conditioning program appropriate to their goals and level of participation.

Medical Conditions that meet NVWG eligibility criteria include:

- Spinal Cord Injury (must include if complete or incomplete paraplegia or quadriplegia, Level of Injury and ASIA Impairment Scale (AIS)).
- Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (w/impairments requiring a wheelchair for sports)
- Amputee (excludes toe amputations or upper extremity)
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
- Multiple Sclerosis (w/impairments requiring a wheelchair for sports)
- Other neurologic disorders causing disabling neuromuscular function (case by case)

Medical Conditions that do NOT meet the criteria for participation in the NVWG:

- Functional Movement Disorder (Conversion Disorder)
- Hip, knee and ankle surgeries/replacements
- Degenerative Joint Disease (DJD)
- Degenerative Disc Disease (DDD)
- Radiculopathy
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Osteoarthritis (OA)
- Pain syndromes (Central Pain Syndrome (CPS), Fibromyalgia, Chronic Low Back Pain (CLBP), etc.)
- Low Vision
- Diabetes Mellitus (DM)

- Mental Health (as primary diagnosis and/or only diagnosis)
- Cardiovascular/Respiratory disease
- Systemic/Metabolic disease
- Spinal Stenosis if no physical impairment requiring wheelchair is present
- Rheumatologic conditions and other systemic joint conditions

If at any time the medical condition of your patient changes so that they would not be safe to participate, please contact the NVWG office at 206-407-9542. If you have any questions regarding your patient's medical clearance you can contact the NVWG Medical Director.

Regards,

Kenneth Lee, MD
Medical Director, National Veterans Wheelchair Games
Kenneth.Lee8@va.gov