
Effective Dates: 09/21/2007 - Present (Go to [History](#))

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TN 4 (09-06)

PM 00233.001 Introduction - Management of the Consultative Examination (CE) Process

CITATIONS: 20 CFR Sections [404.1519t](#) and [416.1919t](#)

A. Introduction

This section explains SSA Regional Office (RO) responsibilities for managing and monitoring the consultative examination (CE) process. It also contains the RO Guide for Evaluating Disability Determination Services (DDS) Management of the CE Process.

B. Policy for ODISP, Office of Disability Programs (ODP) responsibility

ODP is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the CE process by developing regulations, disability program policies and guidelines for use by Federal, State, and private contractor providers.

C. Policy for RO responsibility

ROs are responsible for monitoring and reviewing each DDS's management of the CE program. Monitoring will include:

- Development of DDS staff
- Eligibility of CE providers
- Referrals and purchases of CE services
- Quality of medical evidence
- Documentation of findings

NOTE: Monitoring may include reviews by independent medical specialists under direct contract with SSA.

1. Development of DDS staff

ROs will monitor professional development of DDS staff to ensure:

- Optimal use of CE/medical evidence of record services
- Correct selection of CE specialists

- Appropriate, necessary, and correct development of medical evidence

2. Eligibility of CE providers

ROs will monitor:

- Recruiting, training and review of CE providers.
- Licensing of CE providers, when required.
- Use of CE providers in the disability program.
- Prevention of fiscal fraud/abuse and unethical, questionable or irregular practices.

3. Referrals and purchases of CEs

ROs will monitor referrals and purchases of CEs in accordance with SSA policies and procedures.

4. Quality of medical evidence

ROs will ensure necessary medical evidence is provided by CE panelists and the medical community through effective communication and education.

5. Documentation of findings

ROs will document monitoring activities and findings. Refer to [PM 00233.005B.1.e](#) (Periodic Reporting), and to [PM 00233.900](#), Exhibit 1, RO Guide for Evaluating DDS Management of CE Process.

Section History

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Prior Versions of Section

Effective Date	Title
09/21/2007 - 09/20/2007	Introduction - Management of the Consultative Examination (CE) Process
09/29/2006 - 09/20/2007	Introduction - Management of the Consultative Examination (CE) Process
09/19/1997 - 09/28/2006	SSA Objectives and Goals

Link to this section:

(b) (7)(E)