



Rehabilitation Support Worker versus Personal Support Worker

Clarification is often required to assist teams in making decisions on when it is best to utilize a Rehabilitation Support Worker (RSW) or Personal Support Worker (PSW). This chart provides details about the responsibilities, experience, and training for each role to aid in the decision-making process.

Responsibilities, experience, and training	RSW	PSW
Facilitates functional independence in life skills: • Activities of daily living (i.e. dressing, grooming) • Instrumental activities of daily living (i.e. household management, preparing meals)	✓	
Facilitates executive functioning to enhance life and independence such as communication, problem solving, memory, planning, organizing	✓	
Provides partial or total hands-on support of individuals in the areas of personal hygiene, meals, continence management, ambulance/transfers, safety, delegated tasks, i.e. catheterization, bowel care		✓
Completes tasks for clients such as cooking, light housekeeping, shopping, laundry, general errands		✓
Received training and education to manage complex behaviours associated with brain injuries, mental health issues, and other accident-related traumas	✓	
May or may not receive training to understand and build awareness of brain injuries (depends on the organization)		✓
Facilitates community integration for vocational or avocational activities, academics, social/recreational activities, other involvement in home and community	✓	
Functional/social/behavioural focus	✓	
Medical/healthcare support	✓	✓
Reports observations and significant occurrences	✓	✓
Monitors and reports confusion and memory issues	✓	✓
Contributes to the care plan through ongoing clinical feedback based on observable data	✓	
Collaborates and follows the direction of registered health professionals such as occupational therapist, physiotherapist, speech language pathologist, psychologist, social worker	✓	
Supervised by a registered healthcare professional such as a social worker, registered nurse or registered practical nurse		✓
Consistently utilizes car for approved community medical rehabilitation activities/appointments/training	✓	
Services are considered therapy and approved by adjuster through an OCF18	✓	
Services are considered attendant care and approved by adjuster through a Form 1		✓

How to request a Rehabilitation Support Worker?

Please call 1-877-542-9990, or visit our website at www.bartimaeusrehab.com for a Service Director in your area.