

# MEDICAID DISABILITY MANUAL

make a determination, efforts will be made to obtain additional information.

If the evidence is inconsistent, the evidence will be weighed as a whole to decide whether a determination may be made based on the available evidence. Where there are inconsistencies that cannot be resolved, or when attempts to obtain additional information for cases which are incomplete are unsuccessful, a determination will be made based upon the available evidence.

## 4. Vocational Considerations

a. Residual Functional Capacity (RFC) - The individual's impairment(s) and any related symptoms such as pain may cause physical and mental limitations that affect what s/he can do in a work setting. Residual functional capacity is the most an individual can still do despite his/her limitations. An individual's residual functional capacity is assessed based on all the relevant evidence in the case record. If the individual has more than one impairment, the reviewer is to consider all of the individual's medically determinable impairments including those that are not "severe" when assessing the individual's residual functional capacity. An RFC assessment includes an evaluation of the individual's physical capabilities as well as work-related limitations imposed by any non-exertional impairment(s) (i.e., mental, manipulative, seeing, hearing, speaking, etc.). This assessment is not a decision as to whether an individual is disabled but is used to determine the particular types of work an individual may be able to do despite his/her impairment(s). Once the individual's RFC is established, it is used to determine his/her maximum sustained work capacity, which is the highest functional level a person can perform on a regular work basis. In order to limit an individual to a particular functional level (i.e., sedentary, light, etc.), an individual must be limited to at least that level for the timeframe under consideration for disability.

(1) **Physical Impairment** - If the individual has a physical impairment, an assessment of the individual's ability to perform certain work-related activities, such as sitting, walking, standing, lifting, carrying, reaching, handling, pushing, pulling, stooping, and crouching shall be made. In order to say that an individual can do a certain job, s/he must have physical capacities equal to the physical demands of that job.

To determine the physical exertion requirements of work in the national economy, the following classifications shall be used. These terms have the same meaning as they have in the Selected Characteristics of Occupations Defined in the Revised Dictionary of Occupational Titles.