# PART C, CHAPTER 5.3.a: PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

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| **Policy Number** | **Authority** | **Scope** | **Effective Date** |
| Part C, Chapter 5.3.a | 34 CFR [§361.5(c)(39)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/part-361#p-361.5(c)(39)), [§361.48(b)(5)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/part-361#p-361.48(b)(5)), and TWC Rule [§856.44](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=40&pt=20&ch=856&rl=44) | All TWC-VR staff | 07/01/2025 |

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## POLICY

### General Overview

Psychological Services are provided to eligible TWC-VR customers who have clinically diagnosed psychiatric conditions that are defined within the DSM-5 (or the most current version).

Psychological Services are provided only when—

* Comparable services and benefits are not available;
* Prescribed by a licensed psychologist, psychiatrist, licensed medical professional, or licensed mental health professional and required to improve or stabilize the effects of the psychological impairment;
* Necessary to achieve an employment outcome; and
* Individuals whose psychological disorders—
  + Are stable or slowly progressive; and
  + Can be corrected or stabilized within a reasonable time.

Exception: If a customer lacks a clinical psychiatric diagnosis or prescription, a VR counselor may authorize psychological counseling services if they determine the customer would benefit from support in addressing an impediment to employment, including adjustment to disability. The counselor must document the rationale for approving and purchasing these services in a case note.

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## REVIEW

The Policy Planning and Statewide Initiatives Team, or designee, is responsible for reviewing this policy and these procedures and will update the Document History log if necessary.

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| **Date** | **Type** | **Change Description** |
| 09/03/2024 | New | VRSM Policy and Procedure Rewrite |
| 07/01/2025 | Revised | Added disciplines that can prescribe psychological services and added an exception for psychological services |