

Eligibility Determination



Learning Objective:

**Describe the eligibility
determination process
for ADA Paratransit**





Eligibility Determination

Transit agencies should develop a comprehensive list of skills needed and tasks required to use the fixed route service.



Task List

Tasks required to access the fixed route transit service with a reasonable level of effort and risk, such as:

- going to and from the stop
- going throughout the service area
- traversing various surfaces



A rider must be able to perform the tasks under a variety of conditions, such as:

- low light



A rider must be able to perform the tasks under a variety of conditions, such as:

- bright light



A rider must be able to perform the tasks under a variety of conditions, such as:

- snow
- ice
- rain
- heat



A rider must be able to perform the tasks under a variety of conditions, such as:

- background noise



A rider must be able to perform the tasks under a variety of conditions, such as:

- interruptions or distractions



Functional Evaluation

The ADA Paratransit application process may include functional evaluation or testing of applicants.



Functional Evaluation

An evaluator may observe an applicant attempting to perform functional tasks that simulate a fixed route trip, such as:



Climbing steps



Crossing a street



Walking a measured course



Taking cognitive tests



Physical factors:

Walking speed

Balance

Endurance

Coordination

Strength

Range of Motion

Dexterity



Cognitive factors:

- Orientation to person, place, and time
- Short- and long-term memory
- Ability to stay on task
- Ability to seek and act on directions
- Problem solving
- Ability to process information
- Consistency
- Behavioral skills



Sensory factors:

- Directional wayfinding
- Ability to detect changes in surface
- Ability to detect/hear environmental cues
- Ability to self-regulate following jarring sensory input



Other factors:

Some disabilities cannot be evaluated by functional assessments, such as seizure disorders and psychiatric disabilities.

These conditions may rely on other forms of documentation for eligibility determination.



Safety

Public safety is not a consideration in determining ADA Paratransit eligibility.

A route that travels through a high crime rate area is not considered an eligibility factor.



Safety skills

However, personal safety skills must be considered in eligibility determinations.





Age Limits

Age limits imposed on children to use paratransit service must be in line with age limits on the fixed-route system.



Compliance Check

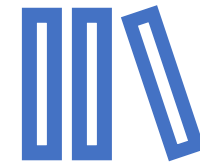
The FTA identified instances where children under a certain age were not allowed to travel alone on paratransit, whereas similar limitations were not made on the fixed-route system.

Age limitations must be consistent across fixed-route and ADA Paratransit systems.



Supporting Documentation

Applicants may provide any information or documentation that will help to show that they are eligible because they cannot use the fixed-route transit system.



Supporting Documentation

Include information on any secondary conditions, such as:

- disorientation
- fatigue
- difficulties with balance



Supporting Documentation

Think about the variety of environments across different routes.



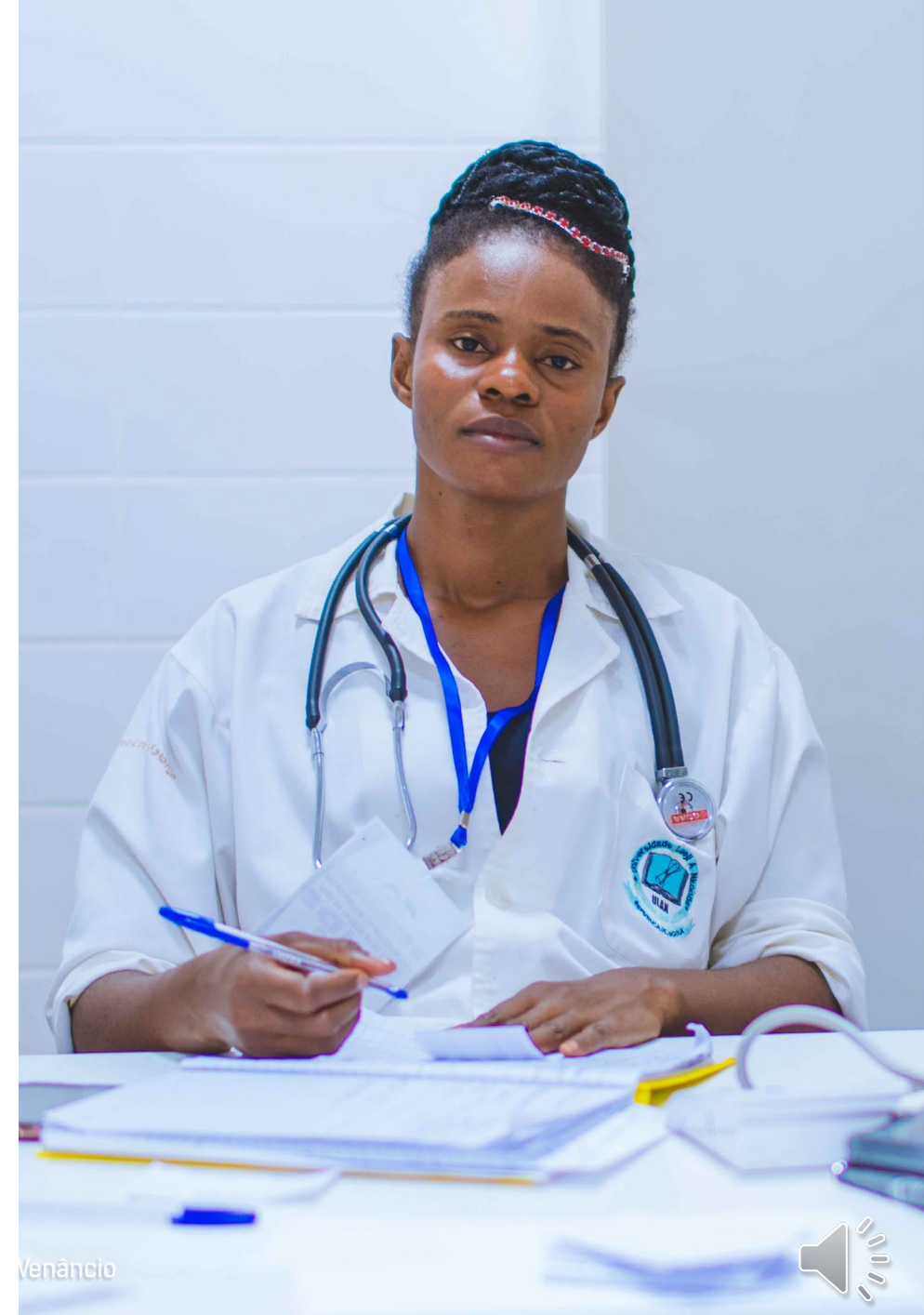
Documentation from Community Supports

A detailed statement from a disability service provider, independent living specialist, rehabilitation counselor, support broker, case manager, employment support specialist, or other support person.



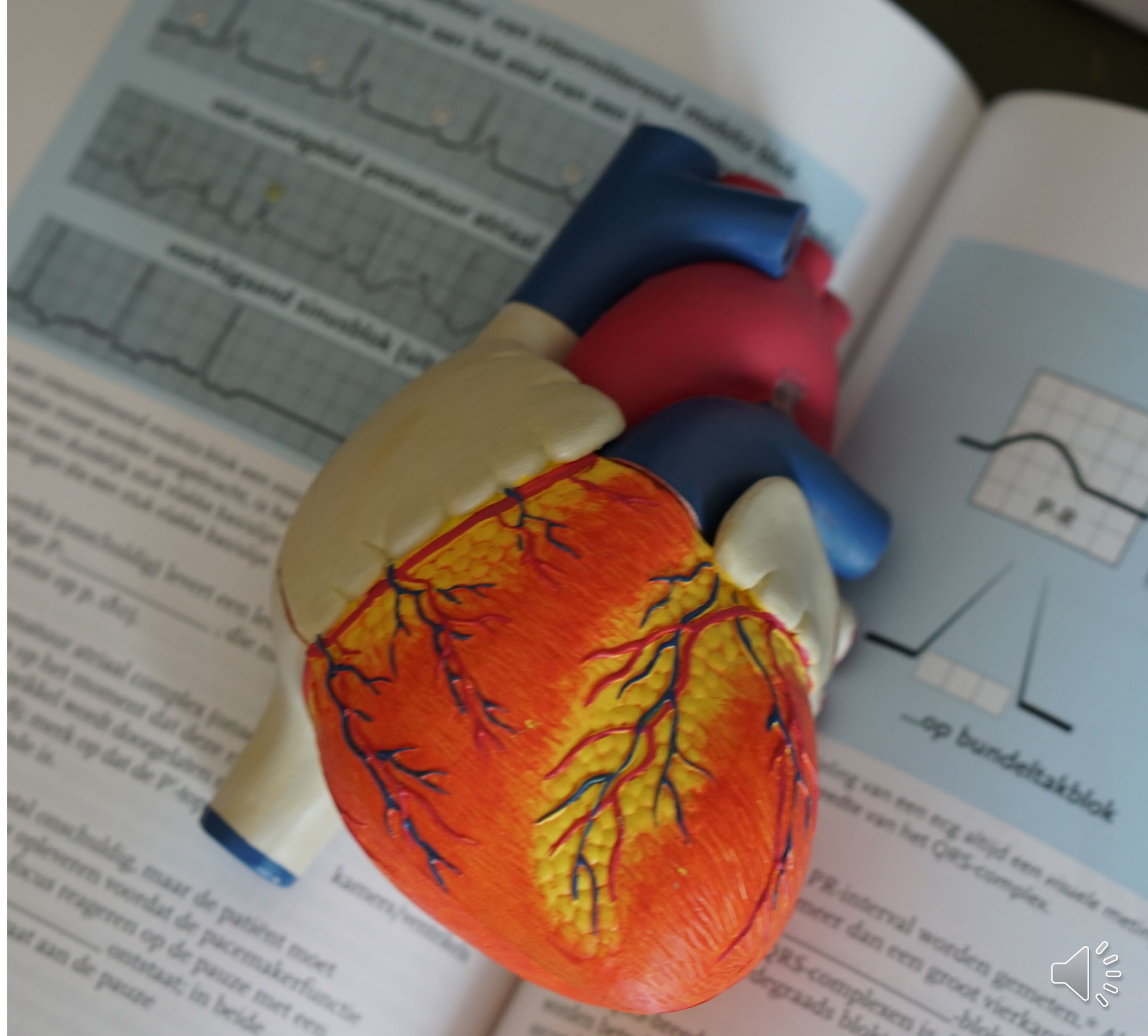
Medical Documentation

A detailed statement from a medical professional – a physician, psychologist, mental health therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, or counselor.



Supporting Documentation

The statement should explain how the disability prevents the applicant from using the fixed-route system.



Accessibility Barriers

- no curb cuts
- no sidewalks
- extremely busy intersection with fast “walk/don’t walk” cycle
- no pedestrian signals
- lack of snow removal
- hilly terrain
- weather that makes negotiating the distance impossible





Learning Stop



True or False?

The ADA Paratransit application process may include functional evaluation or testing of applicants.



True

The ADA Paratransit application process may include functional evaluation or testing of applicants.



True

The ADA Paratransit application process may include functional evaluation or testing of applicants.



True or False?

An applicant who can ride fixed-route service in good weather may be eligible for ADA Paratransit service when snow is a factor.



True

An applicant who can ride fixed route service in good weather may be eligible for ADA paratransit service when snow is a factor.



True

An applicant who can ride fixed route service in good weather may be eligible for ADA paratransit service when snow is a factor.



True or False?

An applicant with a psychiatric disability may be eligible for ADA Paratransit service.



True

An applicant with a psychiatric disability may be eligible for ADA paratransit service.



True

An applicant with a psychiatric disability may be eligible for ADA paratransit service.



True or False?

Where a city bus system allows children over the age of 12 to ride independently, the ADA Paratransit service must follow the same age guidelines.



True

Where a city bus system allows children over the age of 12 to ride independently, the ADA paratransit service must follow the same age guidelines.

