



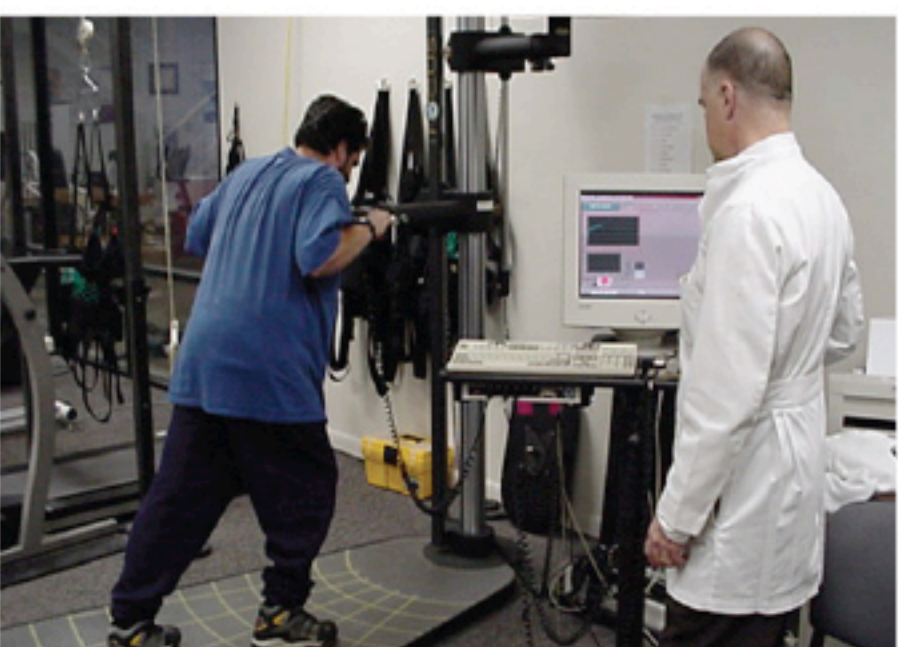
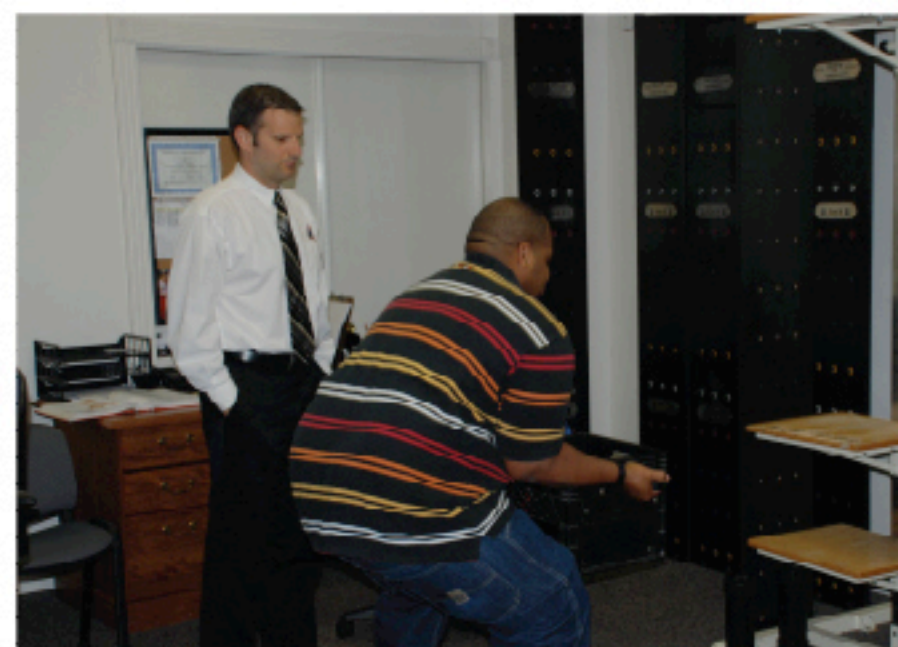
ISR Physical Therapy

FCE TIP OF THE MONTH
October, 2010

Could they do it Before the Injury?

As FCE providers we occasionally encounter individuals who have been injured on the job who upon examination appear to lack suitability for that type of employment. A case in point is a recent FCE we conducted on a 5'6" young man who weighed only 126 lbs. He was employed as a roustabout at the time of injury. This job is listed in the heavy to very heavy job category which means the individual is required to lift 100 lbs or more on a regular basis. In this case, the man evaluated was required to lift weight at work that is greater than 80% of his body weight! This scenario creates significant issues when trying to return to work. If a job-specific functional test was not conducted prior to job placement we have no way of knowing his pre-injury physical capacities. In this case he may appear to have a disability as a result of an injury which in reality was more related to his diminutive size or lack of conditioning. In short, his disability post injury may actually be due in whole or part to his physical capacity deficits prior to job placement. This scenario underscores the importance of a skillfully performed ADA compliant pre-placement functional capacity assessment to determine pre-injury functional work capacities. Pre-injury baseline functional data can be compared to post injury status to more objectively determine if any true disability exists or if the person has recovered to pre-injury status.

If you need more information on new hire pre-placement or post injury functional testing please do not hesitate to contact us.



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