

Why Acute Rehab?



When choosing a rehabilitation provider, knowing the facts can make all the difference in how well you or your loved one progresses during rehabilitation. It can mean returning home, to the community and to activities you love, sooner. It can mean gaining or regaining a higher level of function – getting closer to back to normal.

There are distinct advantages and differences in levels of care, services and requirements provided by an acute rehabilitation hospital. You may not find these services at a skilled nursing facility.

Be an educated patient or caregiver. Ask questions. Know the differences between the levels of care available. Find out if you or your loved one qualify for acute inpatient rehabilitation.

Make the Right Choice for Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation

Requirements		Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital	Skilled Nursing Facility
Physician Visits	Qualifications	MD specializing in rehabilitation	Any physician
	Visits	At least three physician visits per week, often daily	Every 30 days minimum
	Coverage	Rehab MD on call 24 hours/day, specialists available for consult	Emergency coverage only
Nursing	Training	Certified rehabilitation registered nurses	Not mandated
	Coverage	24-hour RN coverage; average of one nurse per five–six patients with CNA to assist	Not mandated; fewer than two RNs or LPNs required per 50 patients
Therapy Intensity		Three hours of therapy five days a week, or 15 hours over seven days	Not mandated
Interdisciplinary Team Approach		MD, RN, PT, OT, speech pathologist, respiratory therapist, psychologist, dietitian, case manager, pharmacist	Not mandated
Plan of Care	Coordination	Coordinated by interdisciplinary team members who identify rehab needs	Not mandated
	Patient and family involvement	Patient and family involved in goal setting	Not mandated
	Review	Review informally on a daily basis by team members and once per week in team meetings	Every 30 days
Patient Progress		Significant practical improvement toward maximum independence with the goal of returning home	Not mandated
Patient Outcomes		Tracked and reported to Medicare through a benchmarking agency that compares the hospital to regional and national norms	Not tracked
Patient and family education to prepare for discharge to home		Patient and family education throughout stay	Not mandated
Full Hospital Access	Infection prevention	Strict infection prevention program that follows hospital guidelines	Not mandated
	Pharmacy	On-site pharmacist consults with physicians and nurses on medication use and dosing	Off-site services
	Respiratory therapy	Full-time respiratory therapists on staff	On call
	Wound care	Many have certified wound care nurses	Not mandated
Accreditations		Accredited by The Joint Commission (TJC) and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)	Accredited by The Joint Commission

Contact Us for More Information and to Request a Patient Assessment.