

Development of a Spinal Cord Specialty Program

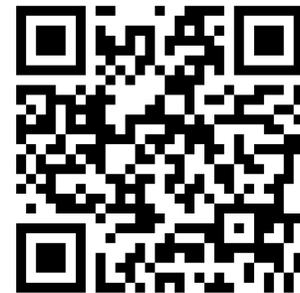
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Project Description & Sites

The capstone project was completed at Aultman Woodlawn Inpatient Rehabilitation, a 30-bed intensive rehabilitation unit accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. Throughout the 14-week experience, the student initiated the development of a spinal cord specialty program at the facility and enhanced clinical practice skills for rehabilitation of patients with neurological impairments. The role of the doctoral student included conducting the needs assessment, designing a spinal cord education and training series, creating content for education sessions, and leading the initial training sessions for staff at the facility.



Literature Review | Needs Assessment

Literature Review

- ❖ Previous research showed the occurrence of medical complications in spinal cord injury (SCI) patients decreased as the quality of care at the treatment facility increased (Emerich, Parsons, & Stein, 2012).
- ❖ Research has provided evidence that patients cared for in specialized SCI programs achieved greater functional gains compared to those cared for in non-specialized programs (New, Simmonds, & Stevermuer, 2011).

Needs Assessment

- ❖ Findings indicated the strongest needs at the facility were related to staff training and equipment.

Mission & Vision Statements

- ❖ Mission Statement: To assist in the development of a spinal cord injury program at Aultman Woodlawn Inpatient Rehabilitation
- ❖ Vision Statement: To provide holistic, evidence-based care for individuals with spinal cord injuries and other neurological impairments

Project Outcomes

- ❖ Outcome #1: Student contributed to the development of a spinal cord injury program at Aultman Woodlawn Inpatient Rehabilitation.
- ❖ Outcome #2: Student developed an advanced skillset and knowledge base for treating patients with neurological impairments at an inpatient rehabilitation setting

Deliverables

- ❖ Needs Assessment Summary
- ❖ Formal write-up of contributions to spinal cord program development
- ❖ Documented treatment time
- ❖ Completed spreadsheet of diagnoses treated and interventions implemented
- ❖ Evidence of continuing education course completion

Future Implications for OT

- ❖ SCI training series implemented for all rehabilitation staff at facility
- ❖ Administration and management notified of needs at facility for therapy program development
- ❖ Educational materials provided for future dissemination at facility
- ❖ Interdisciplinary SCI committee formed at facility

KEY REFERENCES*Full reference list and image reference list available upon request

- Emerich, L., Parsons, K. C., & Stein, A. (2012). Competent care for persons with spinal cord injury and dysfunction in acute inpatient rehabilitation. *Topics in spinal cord injury rehabilitation, 18*(2), 149–166. doi:10.1310/sci1802-149
- Inpatient rehab. (n.d.) Retrieved from <https://aultman.org/home/services/support-services/inpatient/>
- New, P., Simmonds, F., & Stevermuer, T. (2011). Comparison of patients managed in specialised spinal rehabilitation units with those managed in non-specialised rehabilitation units. *Spinal Cord, 49*, 909-916. doi:10.1038/sc.2011.29