The Spinal Cord Injury Rehab Program

Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist's Spinal Cord Injury Program provides specialized, intensive rehabilitation for patients age 13 and older with spinal cord dysfunction due to trauma or disease resulting in paralysis (loss of strength), loss of sensation (feeling), and loss of control over body functions. The Program offers the expertise of a specialized interdisciplinary care team of rehab professionals who help patients cope with their injuries, re-learn basic skills, maximize functional independence, and reintegrate back into their communities. The Program also provides patient and family training to prepare patients and their families for rehab discharge, to help coordinate equipment needs and home modifications, and to provide information on lifetime health and wellness resources.

Philosophy of Care

Each patient is unique, with specific needs, capabilities and potential. Therefore, each patient's treatment plan is individualized and modified as recovery progresses. The rehabilitation team, patient, and family/caregivers work together to set and achieve functional improvement goals.

The Care Team

The Program's success is attributed to its comprehensive, interdisciplinary team, which includes the patient, family members/caregivers, and professionals specializing in:

- Rehab Medicine
- Rehabilitation Nursing
- Clinical Psychology
- Neuropsychology
- Clinical Nutrition
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech Language Pathology
- Social Work
- Recreation Therapy
- Assistive Technology*

*These services are provided by team members who are not directly employed by WFBMC, but who work very collaboratively with the Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Rehab Programs.

Scope of Services

- Board-certified physicians specializing in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) direct the patient’s plan of care on a daily basis.
- Rehabilitation Nursing is provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Each patient receives a minimum of 15 hours of therapy each week, including a combination of physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and/or orthotics/prosthetics training. The type of therapy, intensity of therapy, and schedule are tailored to the needs of each patient. Therapy services are provided between 7AM and 5PM Monday through Friday, and on Saturdays as needed.
- Recreation therapy, clinical psychology, neuropsychology, and assistive technology services are available 5 days a week, and are provided based on the needs of each patient.
- Each patient is assigned a Care Coordinator who acts as a liaison between patient, family/caregiver, rehabilitation professionals, and third party payers.
- Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist provides all ancillary services including, but not limited to, Diagnostic Imaging, Laboratory, Pharmacy, Spiritual Care, and Respiratory Therapy.
- Consulting physician services for other specialties are provided, as needed.
- If services not available within Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist are needed, referrals or consultations are made for these services, which may include, but are not limited to: orthotics and prosthetics, durable medical equipment, caregiver/family services, substance abuse counseling, vocational rehabilitation, rehab engineering, and driver’s assessment and education.
Treatment Goals and Common Interventions

The ultimate goal is to return each patient to the highest level of independence possible, and in most cases, to return the patient to home. Specific treatment goals are individualized for each patient and may include:

- Maximizing function in:
  - Mobility
  - Activities of Daily Living (eating, grooming, dressing, bathing)
  - Bowel and bladder management
- Addressing sexuality and family and cultural adjustment issues
- Disability adjustment and counseling and coping strategies
- Recommending healthy living practices for weight control and smoking cessation
- Optimizing community integration and life roles through community outings, recreation therapy and use of assistive technology
- Patient and family education for individualized needs
- Identifying additional services for families/support systems (e.g., support groups) for transitions across the lifespan

Spinal Cord Injury

The Program welcomes patients with spinal cord injury due to any etiology and for levels of injury resulting in either paraplegia/Para paresis or tetraplegia/tetra paresis as long as the patient no longer needs mechanical ventilator support (breathing machine). The following table describes the etiology, levels, and co-occurring conditions associated with Spinal Cord Injury.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Includes, but not limited to:</th>
<th>Non-Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury</th>
<th>Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intervertebral disc disorders with myelopathy, intraspinal abscess, vascular myelopathies</td>
<td>Anterior cord syndrome, Brown-Sequard Syndrome, cauda equine syndrome, central cord syndrome, fracture of vertebral column with spinal cord injury, concussion and edema of spinal cord, posterior cord syndrome, nerve root</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levels of Cord Injury</td>
<td>Cervical (C1-C8)</td>
<td>Cervical (C1-C8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thoracic (T1-T12)</td>
<td>Thoracic (T1-T12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lumbar (L1-L5)</td>
<td>Lumbar (L1-L5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sacral region</td>
<td>Sacral region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cauda equine</td>
<td>Cauda equine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effects</td>
<td>Paraplegia, tetraplegia, no plegia, complete, incomplete</td>
<td>Paraplegia, tetraplegia, no plegia, complete, incomplete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laterality: left, right, bilateral</td>
<td>Acute vs sequelae (late effects) from initial injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laterality: left, right, bilateral</td>
<td>Laterality: left, right, bilateral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated Deficits and Co-Occurring Conditions include, but are not limited to:</td>
<td>Bowel and bladder dysfunction, sexual dysfunction, blood pressure changes, bradykinesia (slowness in movement), clonus (involuntary muscle contraction and relaxation), depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, dysphagia (impaired swallowing), flaccidity, gait impairment, heterotrophic ossification, hyperreflexia, impaired balance, infection, orthostatic hypotension, postural instability, proprioception, respiratory dysfunction, spasticity, tremors, involuntary movements, muscle atrophy, pain, skin breakdown/pressure ulcers and changes in control of heart rate, body temperature, breathing rate, digestion, sensation, fertility, nutritional need, gender specific health needs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demonstrated Excellence in Rehabilitation

The Comprehensive Integrated Inpatient Rehabilitation Program has been awarded accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. CARF Accreditation means that Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist's Program:

- is committed to excellence in rehabilitative care
- meets rigorous international standards of patient care and satisfaction
- is committed to helping each patient achieve their individualized rehabilitation goals
- constantly works to improve services and stays on the edge of rehabilitation techniques and technology
- surpasses communication expectations with referral and payer sources

Admission Criteria and Referrals

Patients admitted to the Spinal Cord Injury Rehab Program must have realistic rehabilitation goals that reflect the potential for gaining independence or achieving a higher function in self-care activities and mobility. Additionally, a patient must

- Be 13 years of age or older
- Require and be able and willing to participate in intensive physical, occupational and/or speech therapy (if indicated) at least 3 hours a day
- Have the need for more than one type of rehab therapy and have potential for functional improvement.
- Be medically appropriate for an inpatient hospital environment and have stable vital signs.
- Have a supportive social system and a defined, expected discharge destination to home
- Be able to breathe without the help of a mechanical ventilator at all times

Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist accepts payment from all major private insurance plans, worker's compensation, Medicare and Medicaid. The Program evaluates and verifies insurance coverage for each patient prior to admission. If the patient does not have insurance coverage for the Rehabilitation Program, the patient and/or family/caregiver will be notified and alternate payment plans or treatment options will be discussed. Any estimated financial responsibilities will be communicated to the patient and/or family. A listing of prices is available at https://www.wakehealth.edu/Patient-and-Family-Resources/Billing-and-Insurance/Your-Health-Care-Costs.

The Program welcomes referrals from many sources, including, but not limited to, physicians, short term acute care hospitals, rehab hospitals, nursing facilities, long term acute care hospitals, and home health agencies. To make a referral, call (336) 713-8500 or (888) 605-9568.

For additional information about the program, email Rehab4Life@wakehealth.edu.

The Rehabilitation Programs at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist do not discriminate against individuals of varying age, disability, race/ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual preference and strive to understand and be sensitive to these characteristics and to patient-specific preferences.
Spinal Cord Injury Program Patients – Calendar Year 2022

Number of patients: 93
Patients with Traumatic Spinal Cord Injuries: 40
Patients with Non-Traumatic Spinal Cord Injuries: 53
69% were males
31% were females
Average Days in Program: 16.2
Therapy Intensity:
3 hours per day, 5 days per week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Number of Patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13-17</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-40</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-65</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66-85</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-100</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Patient Outcomes – Calendar Year 2022

The ability to return home is a key outcome and expectation for most Program participants. During calendar year 2022, 83% of the Program’s patients returned home compared to a national average of 79%. 11% of patients returned to their previous hospital setting, but often for just a short period prior to returning to Rehab. 6% of patients were discharged to a long term care or other setting for continued rehab and/or nursing care. 100% of adolescent patients returned home.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Functional Improvement Goals</th>
<th>% Patients Who Had Improved Function between Admission &amp; Discharge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Care</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Function is measured, or scored, at admission, during the stay, and at discharge. The table to the left shows the percentage of patients who demonstrated improvement in function between admission and discharge from the Program. 100% of adolescent patients had improved function with mobility and self-care.

Patient/Family Satisfaction

In 2022, Spinal Cord Injury Program participants completed a survey about their likelihood of recommending the Program to friends and family members. 100% gave a rating of 10 on a 10 point scale, indicating they are very likely to recommend the program.
What to Expect in Your Rehab Program

This page will give you an idea of what your rehab program may include. Please keep in mind that your rehab care team will complete a thorough evaluation after admission and develop a more detailed care plan based on your needs and your family’s needs.

Name: _____________________
Diagnosis__________________
Rehab Physician________________
Location: __________________
Expected Days in Program*_________
Expected Discharge_____________
Insurance Coverage: ____________

On average, patients in the Program receive 82 minutes physical therapy, 82 minutes occupational therapy, and 10 minutes of speech therapy per day, 5 days per week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Services</th>
<th>Treatment Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation Physician Services</td>
<td>Manage your medical condition to ensure your safety and progress toward your goals. Nurse practitioners, physician’s assistants, medical students, and residents may work in close collaboration with your rehab physician. During your stay, physician orders will be responded to, with results, within 24 hours, unless otherwise specified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapy</td>
<td>Improve &amp; maximize your mobility skills, safety, strength and endurance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>Improve your ability to complete activities of daily living such as eating, dressing, bathing, toileting and home management; address sexuality issues related to impairment; address emergency preparedness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech Therapy</td>
<td>Improve your swallowing, communication and cognitive skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehab Nursing</td>
<td>Manage your bowel and bladder control, address family issues associated with impairment, educate on care needs, including health and wellness. Our team will be asking you to assume more responsibility and independence the closer you get to discharge. This will make you and your family better prepared for your activities of daily living and resuming home life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition Services</td>
<td>Educate and ensure proper nutrition during treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Psychology &amp; Neuropsychology</td>
<td>Help you and your family members with emotional and mental health challenges associated with temporary or permanent disability and strategies for return to school or work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Therapy</td>
<td>Educate you and your family on how to adapt to community environment after discharge and how to enjoy recreational activities safely.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care Coordination</td>
<td>Coordinate services with the care team, you, and your family members to ensure needs are met prior to discharge, providing education on personal care assistants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthotics</td>
<td>Provide custom orthotic (if needed) to improve mobility and range of motion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Needs</td>
<td>The Program is attentive to the specific cultural or other needs of each patient. Please let us know if you have any specific needs or requests.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What to Expect During Your Stay

The following is a typical schedule for the first three days after admission to the Rehab Program.

Day One

• Arrive on the 3rd floor of the Sticht Center at assigned room.
• Nurse assesses your condition and needs upon arrival to the rehabilitation unit.
• Meet with the physician, social worker and nurses within the first 24 hours.
• Receive an assigned wheelchair for the rehab stay.
• Receive a tentative schedule for each therapy. Throughout your stay, you will receive regular updates on the scheduled times for each therapy service identified for your care plan.

Day Two

• Begin therapy evaluations and treatment, which could include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and recreation therapy.

Day Three

• Working with you and your family, the Rehab team develops an individualized Plan of Care based on your condition and determines your functional status. The Plan of Care guides your treatment program. The rehab team reviews your progress toward your goals at least weekly.

What to Expect During and After Discharge

Your care coordinator will work with you, your care team, and your family/caregiver to coordinate the best discharge plan for your individual needs. Many activities must be completed prior to discharge. For example:

✓ Your care team will make recommendations for equipment you will need at home or modifications that you will need to make at home for your safety and continued recovery.
✓ Your Care Coordinator will arrange for delivery of equipment.
✓ Your care team will determine if you need assistance from a home health agency, which includes nursing and/or therapy at home. Another option is outpatient therapy after your discharge. If the best option for you is home health, your Care Coordinator will give you a list of agencies to choose from near your home and arrange Home Health visits. If outpatient therapy is the best option for you, the Care Coordinator will set up appointments for outpatient therapy.
✓ Your care team will review all discharge instructions with you.
✓ The unit secretary will schedule follow-up appointments with your physician.

After discharge from the Inpatient Rehabilitation Program:

• Your rehabilitation journey will continue, and you may need additional resources to assist with lifestyle changes. During your stay, we will provide information about additional resources that are tailored to your individual needs. If you have additional needs or questions about community resources, please email: Rehab4Life@wakehealth.edu.
• You will receive an NRC survey to request feedback on your satisfaction with our services. Please note that you may receive 2 surveys — one for your stay in the acute hospital and a second one for your stay in our Rehabilitation Program.
• Prior to discharge, you will be asked how you prefer to be surveyed at 3 months after your discharge. We will either mail, email or phone you per your preference to answer this survey. Asking about your continued recovery after discharge helps us to improve our program and better prepare our patients for a successful return to home.
Spinal Cord Resources for Your Continued Recovery

There are many other services within our health system and in your community that may assist in your recovery. The next two pages introduce some of the services and resources available through our organization, the local community, or national organizations. We encourage you to call or visit the website for these organizations. However, please do not hesitate to ask us for additional information on these services or for other providers or services in your community.

**The North Carolina Spinal Cord Injury Association (NCSCIA)** works to enable people with spinal cord injury and disease to achieve their highest level of independence, health, and personal fulfillment by providing resources, services, and peer support. For more information:

- ☎ 919.234.4171
- 🖥 [www.ncscia.org/contact_us.html](http://www.ncscia.org/contact_us.html)
- Email: support@ncscia.org

The **United Spinal Association** is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of all people living with spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D), including veterans, and providing support and information to loved ones, care providers and professionals. **United Spinal’s Spinal Cord Resource Center** connects you with information, resources, and access to an “Ask Us” help center. For more information:

- ☎ 800.962.9629
- 🖥 [www.unitedspinal.org/ask-us](http://www.unitedspinal.org/ask-us)

The **National Institutes of Neurological Disorders and Stroke** provides a wealth of information on treatment, prognosis, research, and rehabilitation for spinal cord injury.


The **Christopher Reeve Spinal Cord Injury and Paralysis Foundation** is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research, and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. For more information:

- 🖥 [www.christopherreeve.org/](http://www.christopherreeve.org/)

**Paralyzed Veterans of America** offers resources and benefits to meet the needs of veterans who have experienced spinal cord injuries. For more information:

- 🖥 [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org)

**Peer support services** are designed to provide individuals and their families with an opportunity to meet and talk with others who are successfully coping with spinal cord injury. Peer Support services can be provided in informal one-on-one sessions or in small groups. During the inpatient stay, patients may also participate in an outing to participate in a local support group. To learn more, please notify your recreation therapist.

After discharge, the following **local spinal cord injury support group** is available.

**SpiNet** of Winston-Salem, serving the Triad area.

Contact: Celia Dixon, WFBH,

Email: cedixon@wakehealth.edu or spinet.club@gmail.com

- ☎ 336.713.8394
Driver Rehabilitation Services include clinical assessments of a person's visual, perceptual, cognitive, physical, and behavioral abilities as it relates to safe and independent driving due to aging, an illness or injury. Two local providers of these services are:

**Driver Rehabilitation Services, P.A.**
- 888.888.0039 or 336.697.7841
- www.driver-rehab.com

**Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist - Outpatient NeuroRehab**
- 336.716.8400

Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist’s **Assistive Technology Center** is a partnership with the North Carolina Assistive Technology Program (NCATP) and is a demonstration center for assistive technology devices (AT). Assistive Technology or “AT” is any piece of equipment or device that a person with a disability uses to make every day living easier, to be more productive in the workplace or to be more independent. Therapists, consumers/patients, and family members can visit the center at Medical Plaza Miller to look at devices, have them demonstrated, and try them out. Many of the devices can be loaned out for short periods of time to try out in the environment of choice. For more information:

Contact: Paul Eklund
- 336.716.8030
- www.wakehealth.edu/Recreation-Therapy/Assistive-Technology.htm (LINK DOESNT WORK)

The **Winston-Salem Mayor’s Council for Persons with Disability** hosts free monthly meetings that are open to the public. Meetings are at 11:30 am on the second Tuesday of each month. For more information:
- 336.245.5678

The Inpatient Rehabilitation Programs are pleased to offer a Rehabilitation Resource Center on the Comprehensive Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit.

If you need assistance finding additional resources in your community: email Rehab4Life@wakehealth.edu.
The Rehabilitation Programs are located on the 3rd floor of the Sticht Center. Park in Patient/Visitor Deck A.

**From Interstate 40 East:** Take Business 40 toward Winston Salem. Exit Cloverdale Avenue. At the bottom of the exit ramp, continue straight through the traffic light onto Medical Center Boulevard. Proceed up the hill and around the curve. Turn left into the Main Entrance to the Medical Center. Turn into the first drive on your left. And then right to park in Deck A.

**From Interstate 40 West:** Take Business 40 toward Winston Salem. Exit Cloverdale Avenue. At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn right on Cloverdale Avenue. At the first traffic light, turn left onto Medical Center Boulevard and proceed up the hill and around the curve. Turn left into the Main Entrance to the Medical Center. Turn into the first drive on your left, and then right to park in Deck A.
**Contact Numbers**

We want to provide the best possible care and service to you and your family. If you have a problem, concern, or unmet need related to your stay on the rehab unit, please speak to your nurse or care coordinator as soon as possible. We are here to help you each step of the way.

### Rehabilitation Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Description</th>
<th>Room Numbers</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Unit</td>
<td>3SA Rooms-301-310</td>
<td>336.713.8300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Rehabilitation Unit</td>
<td>3SB Rooms-351-369</td>
<td>336.713.8341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Rooms</td>
<td></td>
<td>336.702.5 (room number)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Rehabilitation Program Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Manager</td>
<td>Sharon Ali</td>
<td>336.713.8355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapy Manager</td>
<td>Blair Davis</td>
<td>336.713.8065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality and Compliance Manager</td>
<td>Lynn Watkins</td>
<td>336.713.8328</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Care Coordinators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joy Watson</td>
<td>336.713.8815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtney Brunn-Andersen</td>
<td>336.716.8024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Patient Experience</td>
<td>336.713.2273</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Billing and Insurance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Billing</td>
<td>336.716.4958 or 877.938.7497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Counselor</td>
<td>336.716.0681</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### After Discharge

For Questions about community resources or inquiries about rehab services: email Rehab4Life@wakehealth.edu
Inpatient Rehabilitation Website:
www.wakehealth.edu/Specialty/p/Physical-Medicine-and-Rehabilitation/Inpatient-Rehabilitation