

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