

Medical RehabConnection

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The *Medical Rehab Connection* provides CARF news and updates from around the world along with information about upcoming educational events, valuable resources, standards updates, and more.

In this issue:

2017 has brought major developments around CARF's training opportunities offered for medical rehabilitation providers. This issue highlights the major changes and information you need to know in the coming weeks.

We also discuss significant updates that have been made to the CARF standards for Spinal Cord Specialty Programs and Skin Integrity and Wound Care.

MED 101 Training Format Change for 2017

This article has been updated from the CARF Connection blog article titled [Announcement about MED 101 training opportunities for 2017](#).

Beginning this year, CARF will offer MED 101 trainings exclusively in a downloadable recorded format rather than conducting physical-locations trainings. Here is the information you need to know about the change.

Background

Until now, CARF had offered only face-to-face trainings, which provided education on each standard and were great experiences for those who attended. However, this training model presented some challenges. Our presenters have noticed that maybe only 1–2 people, sometimes 3–4, from each organization were attending. These individuals would then have to take information back to all levels of their organizations, which is a time-consuming task that can inadvertently miss people and departments responsible for using the standards. In addition, the cost of travel, hotels, and meals has increased over the years, and finding affordable host locations also has become more difficult.

About the new format

To address these challenges, and help improve training access for all staff members and

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departments, CARF will now be offering MED 101 trainings in a downloadable recorded format. The recordings will contain segments discussing each section of the standards just like the discussions at the in-person CARF 101s. Each section discussion will run about 30–60 minutes and will include current surveyors providing suggestions and tips. This was not always possible at in-person trainings, as the surveyors who attended did not always come from program areas that matched what everyone in attendance had in their organizations.

We think these new recordings will serve as great tools to help your staff understand the standards or to use as inservice training materials. In addition, the recordings will contain discussions on all sections of the standards, which allows you to view the trainings most relevant to your organization. It is also helpful if your organization is interested in adding programs and wants to know more about the relevant standards.

Once you have purchased the recordings, you will be able to view all sections and share them within your organization as many times as you need during the current calendar year. There is no limit to how many people can view the trainings.

In short, the benefits to this new format include:

- No hotel, airline, or other travel costs.
- Access to the training materials all year.
- Access to all section discussions.
- Ability to share links to recordings with all employees within your company.
- Expanded information from surveyors addressing areas that generate the most questions or concerns during surveys.

Moving forward

The recordings should be available by mid-April. As this new format is in its pilot stage, we are requesting your feedback on how to improve our trainings. Please complete the survey that will come to you when you purchase the recordings. We are excited to know what you think about this new way to learn.

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Martinez at smartinez@carf.org or (888) 281-6531, extension 7163.

Thank you.

Cancer Webinar Series, Year 2

In 2016, CARF introduced the cancer webinar series titled *Meeting the Challenge: Integrating Specialized Rehabilitation Services within the Oncology Continuum*. We received amazing feedback and have updated the topics and expanded presenters for 2017 to give you the latest information in this quickly changing field. For example, we received feedback that there was a need for more pediatric discussion. In the schedule below, you can see we now offer two excellent sessions focusing on children with cancer.

The series is a great way to hear from leaders in the field. The webinars can be used during inservices to be shared with many individuals in your organization. You may find the series valuable if you are already accredited and are thinking of seeking accreditation as a Cancer Rehabilitation Specialty Program.

The monthly series will cover eight topics between April and November. The first webinar, [Cancer Rehabilitation Horizon for](#)

[2017 & Beyond](#), is coming up soon on April 19, and is presented by Dr. Nicole Stout, National Institutes of Health. Dr. Stout has been instrumental working with CARF to develop the Cancer Rehabilitation standards and designing this valuable webinar series.

The 2017 Meeting the Challenge webinar series topics are:

Cancer Rehabilitation Horizon for 2017 & Beyond

Presented by Dr. Nicole Stout

- April 19
- 12:00–1:30 p.m. EST

Prehabilitation and Rehabilitation: The Evidence in Oncology Rehabilitation

Presented by Dr. Julie Silver, M.D. – Harvard Medical School

- May 18
- 12:00–1:30 p.m. EST

Building Better Connections: Integrating Palliative Care in Practice

Presented by Dr. Rebecca Kirch, Ph.D.

- June 21
- 12:00–1:30 p.m. EST

Operationalizing Your Oncology Rehabilitation Program

Presented by Dr. Vishwa Raj, M.D. – Carolinas Health System, a CARF-Accredited Cancer Rehabilitation Specialty Program

- July 19
- 12:00–1:30 p.m. EST

Pediatric Oncology

Presented by Dr. Andrea Branas – Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

- August 16
- 12:00–1:30 p.m. EST

Cancer Related Impairment Guidelines

Presented by Dr. Nicole Stout

- September 20
- 12:00–1:30 p.m. EST

Occupational and Physical Therapy Interventions for Children with Cancer

Presented by Dr. Jessica Sparrow, OTR/L – St. Jude Children’s Hospital

- October 18
- 12:00–1:30 p.m. EST

Cancer Care in the Post-Acute Care Setting

Presented by Terrance Pugh

- November 15
- 12:00–1:30 p.m. EST

View this full list on our webinars page under the Medical Rehabilitation header at www.carf.org/Events/Webinars.

Standards Updates: Spinal Cord Specialty Program and Skin Integrity and Wound Care

In 2016, CARF conducted International Standards Advisory Committees (ISACs) to revise and update the Spinal Cord Specialty Program standards and develop new Skin Integrity and Wound Care standards. Rehabilitation nurses will be happy with the results.

Spinal Cord Specialty Program

The Spinal Cord Specialty Program standards have been significantly revised. In one major change, organizations seeking accreditation with these standards no longer have to have a system of care, which included both inpatient and outpatient services. New wording in the standards manual that addresses this area reads:

“A program seeking accreditation as a spinal cord specialty program must include in the survey application and site survey all portions of the program (comprehensive integrated inpatient rehabilitation program, outpatient medical rehabilitation program, home and community services, residential rehabilitation, and vocational services) that the organization provides and meet that program description.”

In addition, the standards have been updated and enhanced. Some of the areas that were addressed include:

1. Demonstration of efforts to optimize outcomes for person served. This focuses on collaborating with and participating in the acute care stages of spinal cord dysfunction.
2. Addressing mobility needs of person served, including practice in home and community settings.
3. Individual plans addressing intimacy and sexual health issues.
4. A greater emphasis on peers in the program, including recruitment of peers, services provided by peer supporters, and competency-based training based on a peer-support curriculum or curriculum developed with input from peers.
5. Inclusion of adaptive sports, recreation, and arts opportunities.
6. Added guidelines around education opportunities for personnel who interact with persons served. Education should help personnel in areas such as identifying changes of status of persons served, knowing how to respond to information about persons served reported by other sources, protecting the privacy and dignity of persons served, and observing for and communicating changes in persons served.

Finally, the requirement that the medical director be board certified in spinal cord medicine has been removed.

Skin Integrity and Wound Care

CARF has been approached many times throughout the years about the development of skin integrity and wound care standards. After the terrific response and participation in the 2016 ISAC and field review, these new standards will be applied for all programs that serve persons needing skin integrity or wound care services. (These standards do not apply to Independent Evaluation Services and Vocational Services).

The Skin Integrity and Wound Care standards can be found in Section 2, Standards 2.A.20.–26. They provide a strong foundation, covering:

1. Initial and ongoing assessments.
2. Risk assessments.
3. Written protocols that address standards of practice, nutritional needs, equipment, supplies, education, a plan for

follow-up care, and interventions to reduce and/or eliminate wounds.

4. Efforts to optimize outcomes for the persons served, including:
 - Exchange of information on factors facilitating skin integrity and wound management and on barriers to skin integrity and wound management.
 - Education of other healthcare providers.
 - Collaboration with other healthcare providers on timing of interventions.
 - Arranging follow-up with other healthcare providers at the time of discharge/transition to facilitate ongoing assessment and management of skin integrity and wound issues.
5. Competency-based training for personnel.
6. Gathering data on wounds that develop or worsen during rehabilitation services, and conducting written analysis about measurement, management, and improvement if necessary.

For more information on Spinal Cord Specialty Program and Skin Integrity and Wound Care standards, contact Chris MacDonell at cmacdonell@carf.org.

Congratulations to Medical Rehab Providers that Earned CARF Accreditation

Congratulations to the following providers that achieved CARF accreditation for medical rehabilitation programs so far in 2017.

Bryan Medical Center Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit, Lincoln, NE
Cone Health Inpatient Rehabilitation Center, Greensboro, NC
Confluence Health/Wenatchee Valley Hospital - Rehabilitation Center, Wenatch, WA
Daviess Community Hospital Acute Rehabilitation Unit, Washington, IN
Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center, Inc., Wheeling, WV
Eisenhower Center, Ann Arbor, MI
Euromedica – Arogi, Thessaloniki
FirstHealth of the Carolinas Moore Regional Hospital Inpatient Rehabilitation Center, Pinehurst, NC
Florida Hospital Rehabilitation, Orlando, FL
Fort Walton Beach Medical Center/The Rehabilitation Institute of Northwest Florida, Destin, FL
Frazier Rehab Institute, Louisville, KY
Good Samaritan Hospital Mission Oaks Campus, Los Gatos, CA
Great River Medical Center, Rehabilitation Program, West Burlington, IA
HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Sarasota, Sarasota, FL
James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital - Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service, Tampa, FL
James J. Peters VAMC - CIIRP Unit, Bronx, NY
Kennedy Krieger Children's Hospital, Inc., Baltimore, MD
Levindale Hebrew Geriatric Center and Hospital, Baltimore, MD
Lieberman Center for Health and Rehabilitation, Skokie, IL
Lifemark Health Rehabilitation Centres - Alberta, Calgary, AB
Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital - St. Louis, Chesterfield, MO
Ministry-Saint Joseph's Hospital, Marshfield, WI
NeuLife Neurological Rehabilitation Center, Mount Dora, FL
NeuroRestorative New England, Braintree, MA
Niagara Children's Centre, St. Catharines, ON
Nightingale Home Health Care, Abu Dhabi

Orange Regional Medical Center, Middletown, NY
Örebro University Hospital, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Örebro
Orion Rehabilitation, Dallas, TX
Pain and Rehab Services of the Southwest, LLC, Baytown, TX
Patricia Neal Rehabilitation Center, Knoxville, TN
Pioneer Medical Services LLC, Abu Dhabi
Progressive Health of PA, Inc., Milford, PA
Rehabilitation and Therapy Services at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital, Fort Worth, TX
Rehabilitation Institute at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, Enid, OK
Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, Detroit, MI
Rehabilitation Specialists, Fair Lawn, NJ
ResCare Premier - Downers Grove, Downers Grove, IL
Roper Rehabilitation Hospital, Charleston, SC
Saint Alphonsus Rehabilitation Center, Boise, ID
South Bay Rehabilitation Center at Paradise Valley Hospital, National City, CA
Sports Medicine Umeå AB, Umeå
St. Anthony's Medical Center, Saint Louis, MO
St. Charles Hospital and Rehabilitation Center, Port Jefferson, NY
St. Luke's Acute Rehabilitation Program - St. Luke's Hospital, Duluth, MN
Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Humanitarian City, Riyadh
The Centre for Child Development of the Lower Mainland, Surrey, BC
The Physical Rehab Center at Laurel Regional Hospital, Laurel, MD
Trinity Neurologic Rehabilitation Center IGH, LLC, Slidell, LA
Trinity Rehabilitation Services, Rock Island, IL
UnityPoint Health Allen Hospital/Inpatient Rehabilitation, Waterloo, IA
University of Maryland Rehabilitation & Orthopaedic Institute, Baltimore, MD
VA Northern California Health Care System - Community Living Center, Martine, CA
Viewpoint Medical Assessments, Toronto, ON
Vista Health - Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit, Waukegan, IL

Cochrane Rehabilitation Launches

230 collaborators from 49 countries have joined together to create a global network called Cochrane Rehabilitation.

The Cochrane Rehabilitation offers the following advantages of [getting involved](#):

- Contribute to the growth of science in rehabilitation worldwide and in your own country
- Contribute to spread the best evidence in the rehabilitation world
- Contribute to improve the methodology of Cochrane production of evidence in rehabilitation
- Global networking with colleagues engaged in the growth of science in rehabilitation
- Local networking with your national evidence-based community
- Increase your own knowledge on evidence and knowledge translation

Participating in the collaboration may help your efforts conforming to CARF standards that require resources and education be provided to personnel to stay current in the field.

Learn more by visiting:

www.cochrane.org/news/230-collaborators-49-countries-join-announce-official-launch-cochrane-rehabilitation.

Upcoming Transforming Outcomes Institute

June 29–July 1, 2017

Boston, MA, United States

Join us for this hands-on institute that takes you through the steps required to plan and conduct a program of outcomes management and quality improvement.

[Click for more information or to register.](#)

CARF Needs You!

We ask our accredited organizations to seek feedback from their stakeholders, and CARF embraces this same philosophy. We are interested in hearing your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions about this newsletter.

If you are interested in contributing to this newsletter please contact either Chris MacDonell at cmacdonell@carf.org or Kelly Silberschlag at ksilberschlag@carf.org.

If you have feedback or would like to contribute to future newsletters, please contact [Kelly Silberschlag](#).