General Information About Our Center

The VA Long Beach Spinal Cord Injury & Disorders (SCI/D) Center is the largest SCI center in the VHA system, serving approximately 800 Veterans with SCI/D throughout the Greater Los Angeles area. VA Long Beach is widely recognized throughout the VHA Spinal Cord Injury System of Care for its dedication to the highest quality of care and comprehensive specialty services designed to meet the unique medical and rehabilitation needs of Veterans with SCI. The interdisciplinary team of rehabilitation specialists partner with the Veteran and family/support system to develop a treatment program to addresses Veterans unique needs throughout the rehabilitation process.

Characteristics of Veterans Served During FY 15

VALB SCI serves Veterans with various levels of spinal cord injury (e.g., Tetraplegia, Paraplegia, or ASIA D) as well as other disorders of the spine including Multiple Sclerosis (MS) (Graph 1). Fifteen Veterans were served through the comprehensive integrated inpatient rehabilitation program (CIIRP) and two were served throughout the Outpatient Medical Rehab Program (OMR). More than half (53%) were characterized with an ASIA D diagnostic category SCI. Overall, 67% all persons served had injuries due to atraumatic causes. The largest group Veterans served were between 46—76 years old (average age was 62 y/o), and all were male.

Achieved Goals / Outcomes Nearly 70% of Veterans served achieved or exceeded the functional goals established at admission (Graph 2). The team works with the patient and their family to understand their unique needs and develop a comprehensive rehab program. Goals are established help guide the process and measure outcomes.
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Services include CARF Accredited Rehabilitation Programs of Comprehensive Inpatient Rehabilitation (CIIRP) and Outpatient Medical Rehabilitation (OMR). Additional programs (Pre-Acute Rehab, Bridge-to-Home (BTH), and Bridge-to-Independence (BTI)) are available to meet the needs of all patients throughout the continuum of their rehabilitation process and support the most appropriate & supportive discharge plan.

Length of Stay and Services Received (Graph 3): Veterans served in the inpatient program are seen for a minimum of 3 hours/day, 6 days/week for interdisciplinary therapy services. The overall average RLOS for all patients groups was 53 days. The largest group of patients (ASIA D) experienced the shortest length of stay to accomplish rehab goals. Veterans served in the OMR program participated in an avg. of 14 episodes of care/rehabilitation discipline (total of 43 visits).

Inpatient FIM Motor Gain by Category of Injury (Graph 4): Functional outcomes measures are used as a tool throughout the rehabilitation process towards established goals. The Functional Independence Measure (FIM) motor gain represents functional independence achieved during the RLOS (i.e., ability to eat, dress, bath, groom, transfer, etc.). Upon completion of inpatient rehabilitation Veterans served by VALB achieved an overall 29% improvement in functional independence according to the FIM.

Outpatient Medical Rehab FIM Motor Gain: both patients that participated in OMR gained an additional two FIM motor points by completion of this program.

Discharge Location (Graph 5): Upon completion of inpatient rehab VALB SCI continues to have a very high overall rate of discharge to community. We exceed the VHA SCI System of Care discharge to community rates by 10%.

Satisfaction with Services Received (Graph 6): VALB SCI excels in its commitment to high quality patient-centered care. This is evidenced by the feedback we receive from Veterans served. Highest marks were reported in the category of respect.