

HINES VA SPINAL CORD INJURY/DISORDERS CENTER



Annual Report for FY 2010

Strategic planning is a critical component of the clinical services provided to the persons served at the SCI/D Center. Such planning ensures program continuity and establishes a framework to address a vision for the future

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VA
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OUR MISSION

Hines Spinal Cord Injury Service will partner within a continuum of care with each Veteran and his/her family, to optimize the Veteran's health, enhance their quality of life, and promote their independence in order to attain the Veteran's individual goals.

FY 2010 Overview

Services Provided:

The Hines VA Spinal Cord Injury (SCI/D) Center is one of the four original VA SCI/D Centers and provides a full range of services based on a Hub & Spokes model of care. The 58 bed comprehensive SCI/D Center provides acute medical treatment as well as ongoing medical care and rehabilitation services in a continuum of care that includes acute care inpatient units, an inpatient and outpatient acute rehabilitation program, an outpatient clinic, home care program, and 30 bed Community Living Center (RCF). Telemedicine and visiting fee basis services expand access for Veterans. Special services include: functional electrical stimulation, robotic assist therapies, custom molded and pressure mapped seating for optimal wheelchair seating, environmental control unit evaluations, eye gaze and voice activated computer use as well as adaptive driving instruction to promote independent living.

Inpatient Care:

The SCI Center has two acute care inpatient units, fully staffed by a dedicated multidisciplinary treatment team including medicine, nursing, nutrition, social work, physical and occupational therapy, psychology, spiritual support, educational therapy and recreational therapy. Other services important to a person with a spinal cord injured, such as speech, psychiatry, urology, neurology, and surgery are available through in-house consultants.

Acute Care Data for FY 2010

Average LOS: 26 days
Total Bed Days of Care: 13362
Unique Veterans Treated: 263
Average Daily Census: 37
Age Range: 20-89 years
- 70% > 55 years of age
- 33% > 65 years of age

Long Term Residential Care Facility:

The SCI Residential Care Facility (RCF) is a 30 bed residential long-term care facility especially designed and staffed for spinal cord injured Veterans. On site staff services include medicine, nursing, social work, psychology, educational therapy and recreational therapy. Other services important to a spinal cord injured Veteran, such as speech, psychiatry, urology, neurology, and surgery are available through in-house consultations. The RCF is involved with the VHA Cultural Transformation Initiative that seeks to transform all VA long term care facilities into a more home-like environment. Led by the Resident's Council with 3 elected Veteran members, there has been innovations in furnishings, meal schedules, cooking facilities and the environment of care, all geared toward encouraging our residents to interact and feel as though they were in their own home environment.

Long Term Residential Care Data for FY 2010:

Total Bed Days of Care: 9855 (based on an ADC of 27)
Unique Veterans Treated: 30
Age Range: 38-88 years of age

Acute Rehabilitation Program:

The Hines SCI Acute Rehabilitation Program has been CARF accredited since 2002. Since then, over 120 newly injured Veterans have completed the acute rehabilitation program. During FY 2010 Approximately 20% of our rehabilitation patients have suffered a traumatic injury resulting in paralysis. 80% of our rehabilitation patients are admitted because of a spinal cord dysfunction resulting from non-traumatic diseases or disorders. In FY10 70% returned to independent living in the community. The increase we saw in discharges to nursing homes was the result of a slightly older Veteran and changing caregiving issues.

Acute Rehabilitation Outcome Date for FY 2010:

25 Veterans completed program
Inpatients: 23 Outpatients: 2

Average Age: 58 years [range: 21 to 82]

Males: 22 (96%) Female: 1 (4%)

Average LOS: 50 days. (Includes the treatment of all medical & surgical problems)

Average Rehabilitation LOS: 32 days.

Patients Discharged to Home: 16 (70%)

Outpatient Care:

The SCI/D outpatient clinic is staffed by SCI/D Board Certified physicians, registered nurses, a health care technician, and support staff. In 2009, the clinic added a licensed NP as a permanent provider. Electrocardiograms as well as tele-retinal screening imaging for diabetics are performed on site. The outpatient clinic serves the important function of performing a comprehensive annual preventive evaluation for Veterans enrolled in our program. This annual evaluation includes therapy, nutritional, psychology and social work evaluations all performed in the clinic. Evaluations of renal and bowel function are also routinely accomplished. The SCI outpatient clinic provides a place for acute and follow-up care with both scheduled (preferred) and walk-in visits. In fiscal year 2010, a total of 3675 patient encounters were completed in the outpatient clinic. A total of 405 SCI patients completed annual evaluations in FY 2010 with a total of 84 patients needing to reschedule their evaluations.

Home Care:

The SCI/D Homes Care program provides in-home monitoring of the newly injured, as well as established, SCI/D Veterans at risk for additional medical problems. Home care staff conduct home evaluations to address issues with accessibility. Veterans with secondary conditions such as diabetes and COPD can also participate in the hospital based telemedicine monitoring program for additional preventive care. In addition to the Veterans enrolled in the home care program, home care staff also monitors SCI/D Veterans residing in community nursing homes. A total of 1504 encounters were completed in the SCI-Home Care program in FY 2010.