

SPINAL CORD INJURIES DISCHARGE CRITERIA FOR OUTPATIENT CLIENTS

POLICY:

It is the policy of The Lighthouse, Inc. that discharge planning is addressed by the treating therapists. The team provides comprehensive evaluation and treatment with the goal of facilitating the clients return to previous levels of functioning.

PROCEDURE:

1. Successful Discharge:
 - A. The client has received maximum benefit from the therapy.
 - B. The client has been evaluated by the treatment team and it is determined that the individual no longer requires treatment services due to the achievement of treatment goals or by consensus of the team that goals will not be achieved in this program.
2. Discharge with subsequent transfer:
 - A. The individual has been evaluated by the treatment team and determined to require more intensive care in a different setting such as a psychiatric hospital or the individual, responsible party or other stakeholders have determined transfer to a different treatment facility is needed due to client choice or financial limitations.
3. Individuals who are diagnosed with a spinal cord injury (SCI) will be assessed for specific discharge needs related to their level of injury and completeness of spinal cord dysfunction.
4. Discharge against Medical Advice (AMA):
 - A. A client or their responsible party wishes to discharge the client from services against the advice of the treatment team and without adequate discharge planning. The client and/or the legal guardian acknowledge that they are leaving the program AMA and are aware of the potential adverse consequences.
5. Unsuccessful Discharge:
 - A. The client experienced a major medical or psychological problem that excludes their benefits from a continued outpatient program.
 - B. The client has not successfully attained treatment goals and/or the client or guardians were non-compliant with agency policies or treatment team recommendations.
 - C. The client's ability to tolerate the program has been modified and a different setting is needed.
 - D. The client and / or their support system are no longer confident in the program.
 - E. The overall goal of the person's program has changed so that outpatient therapy is no longer the best use of the person's resources.
6. The Outpatient Administrator will annually review the discharge criteria for continued appropriateness.
7. The Outpatient Administrator will revise the discharge criteria in accordance with the mission and philosophy of the Lighthouse, Inc. program.
8. The discharge criteria will be documented for public disclosure.