

September 9, 2016

Fast Facts Friday

Kindred

Hospital
Rehabilitation
Services

September is National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month



The following information may or may not be appropriate to your clinical setting. Please review the information and determine the appropriateness of the content prior to sharing with your staff.

Eligible for LMS Credit: No

There are approximately 200,000 people living with spinal cord injuries (SCI) in the United States.

Every 48 seconds in our country, a person becomes paralyzed. A majority of injuries occur from motor vehicle accidents, falls, work-related accidents, and sports injuries.

Every year, more than 10,000 people in the U.S. sustain a spinal cord injury (SCI). A SCI changes a person's life in an instant, creating new challenges for everyday life.

With this in mind, Congress recently acted to bring more attention to [spinal cord injury](#) (SCI), passing a [resolution](#) declaring September National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month. Sponsored by Sens. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Bill Nelson (D-FL), the resolution aims to emphasize the state of health care and treatment for people with spinal cord injuries, highlight the advances that have yet to be made and honor those living with a spinal cord injury. "By designating September as National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month, I hope we can further educate the public about how crippling accidents can be prevented while promoting the important work being done to help victims walk again," Sen. Rubio said. Significant research focused on SCI both in the US and across the globe is focused on developing new therapies, treatments, cutting edge technologies and potential cures for paralysis.

As rehabilitation professionals we must support our communities first and foremost with initiatives aimed at prevention of SCI and also with ensuring that individuals with spinal cord injuries are able to live as functionally as possible with full support to participate in all aspects of our communities – employment as well as social opportunities.

KHRS serves many individuals with SCI in our rehabilitation hospitals and units as well as in our LTAC, acute care and outpatient settings. Through our unique affiliation with Craig Hospital and The Shepherd Center, we have received expert web based training over the past 18 months with ongoing plans to have at least 1-2 educational offerings per year on the topic of SCI. We have access to many tools and resources from Craig and Shepherd to support our provision of the most expert care possible for individuals with SCI. [Go to RediLearn >My Learning Broadcast >Craig-Shepherd Education](#) to access the recorded webinars.

Additionally, a workgroup has been formed to develop a series of clinical training modules based on a recent Shepherd Center Conference "Foundations for Successful Outcomes Following Spinal Cord Injury". Please watch for the announcement of the availability of this material in the coming months.

During September- Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month, all programs are encouraged to work with your communities on projects to address prevention and to advance inclusion for individuals with SCI. For further information or assistance with clinical resources to support the provision of rehabilitation to individuals with SCI, contact your Clinical Performance team member.

To download free publications on SCI: <http://www.unitedspinal.org/disability-publications-resources/disability-publications/>