



Rehab Outlook

October 2010

Our Make-a-Wish program partners patients with our caring employees

Unique program helps patients on the road to recovery

The rehab team at PAMC has created a program that pairs hospital employees and rehab patients in a truly unique way. Aply named, Make-a-Wish blends therapy into personalized real-life events that have resulted in a dramatic impact on our patients' recovery process.

One of the first patients benefitting from this program had a love of Harley Davidson motorcycles. Reluctant to ambulate or even speak following his stroke, this patient progressed quickly when two employees volunteered to bring their Harley to the hospital parking lot. Therapists assisted this patient with ambulating outside where he was greeted by our hospital employees to talk "bikes." This was a wonderful example of integrating both speech and physical therapy into a meaningful social event.

As another example of creative thinking with this program, a trauma patient expressed her wish to wash the windows outside her room. She had once owned a window business with her husband. Our EVS manager and occupational therapist joined forces to customize her therapy session by arranging for this patient to wash her windows.

Recently, our rehab patients helped a fellow patient celebrate her 90th birthday.

This was a novel example of integrating cognitive therapy with a social event. Our patients were assigned tasks to plan the party. They all felt a sense of accomplishment in contributing to this celebration.

During our annual hospital reunion event, we recognized four employees for their contributions to Make-A-Wish: Adrian Quintero, Javier Ponce, Helen Nevarez and Omar Garay.



The third week of September is National Rehab Week and is designed to promote the value of rehabilitation; highlight the capabilities of people with disabilities; to salute the professionals who provide service to people with disabilities; and to renew our nation's commitment to fulfill the unmet needs of people with disabilities. **The Center for Acute Rehabilitation at PAMC** hosted a patient rehab reunion with food, friends and music.

Employee Spotlight



Ernesto Martinez, OT joined the the Center for Rehabilitation at PAMC as an occupational therapist eight months ago. Ernesto, a USC grad, has been an OT for more

than 10 years. He is highly trained in rehabilitation including certification in Sensory Integration and Praxis Testing and Neurodevelopmental Treatment for stroke patients. Very few therapists in the US have completed this level of training. He also holds masters degrees in business administration and health administration and a doctorate in naturopathic medicine.

Ernesto chose rehabilitation because it gives him a chance to make a difference in patients' lives - often with patients from underprivileged backgrounds. He also welcomes the intellectual challenge of working with medically complex patients. Ernesto's superior clinical skills stem from his broad and varied work history in pediatric private practice, early intervention for premature infants, cardio-pulmonary rehabilitation and long term acute care.

In his spare time, Ernesto enjoys running, wrestling, martial arts and traveling.

A Cut Above the Rest

Our clinical staff has undergone intensive and specialized training in order to provide the highest level of care to our patients. Recently, nursing and therapy staff collaborated with the Thoratec, a medical device company for training to rehabilitate ventricular device-assist (VAD) cardiac patients. Our rehab team has completed the VAD Competency online certification. We have collaborated with UCLA's VAD Program / Coordinator who provided onsite training and external training. Additionally, clinical staff completed onsite training and external training at USC University Hospital for their VAD program.

As a result, we developed the PAMC VAD Team. This team trains new nurses to meet the VAD training required to care for any VAD patients. We also have included a select few of the Hospital's ICU nurses to serve as a backup if we need a higher level of nursing for these cardiac care patients.

Rebuilding Lives - a Patient Testimonial

Victor, 45, was critically injured in a motorcycle accident. Following an amputation of his left leg, he was transferred to PAMC for rehab from another local hospital. Victor and his musician friends graciously played an acoustic set at our rehab patient reunion on September 21. Here's what he has to say about his experience:



The treatment I received from the rehab team was the best I have ever experienced. The team of nurses, therapists and physicians treated me like family - with understanding, consideration and caring. This program gave me the strength to step back into my life after just 14 days of rehab. This experience has changed my life after a near-death experience. I would recommend Pacific Alliance to anyone who needs this level of rehabilitation because they really care.

Take a Virtual Tour

Visit our hospital website - www.pamc.net and view our video of the Center for Acute Rehabilitation. The video features a virtual tour of the unit and showcases our warm and caring staff. Watch actual patients undergoing therapy and listen to their stories.

Admission Criteria:

Patients eligible for acute rehabilitation must be medically stable and must be able to participate in at least THREE hours of therapy per day.

PATIENT REFERRALS:

JENNIFER WEST
213.268.1763

MARY ANN CALLES,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
213.683.9391

JOHN LIU, MD
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

For more information or to schedule a tour of our center, please call Kellye Pitts, Marketing Manager at 213.437.4226



531 WEST COLLEGE ST
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

WWW.PAMC.NET

REHAB OUTLOOK

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