

# ACADEMY OF SPINAL CORD INJURY PROFESSIONALS

## Improving Emergency Care of Persons with Chronic SCI

Latiffany Jackson, MSN-ED, RN, CRRN and Cynthia Hernandez, MSN-ED, RN, CRRN

James A. Haley VA Medical Center

### OVERVIEW

- ❖ There are 18,000 spinal cord injuries per year
- ❖ VA provides care to more than 27,000 veterans with SCIs and relating disorders (SCI/D) each year making the department the largest health care system in the world providing lifelong spinal cord care
- ❖ SCIs are estimated to affect between 249,000 and 363,000 Americans, with about 17,730 new injuries occurring each year. About 80% of people with new injuries are males, and roughly 42,000 people with SCIs are Veterans



### BACKGROUND

- ❖ SCI registry of over 1200 people who receive care at the James A Haley Medical Center Hub.
- ❖ Patients are frequently admitted via ED with direct admissions to SCI with medical complications of their SCI
- ❖ Gaps were identified with ED staff related to providing care to persons with SCI including Autonomic Dysreflexia and Osteoporosis.
- ❖ Committee developed to improve communication and collaboration.

### PURPOSE

- ❖ Improve medical care for persons with chronic SCI receiving care in the Emergency Department (ED)
- ❖ Improve communication and collaboration between ED and SCI



### ED/SCI COLLOBARTIVE TEAMWORK

- ❖ Monthly TEAMS meetings scheduled with SCI Educators, Chief of SCI, ED physicians, and ED Nurse manager and nursing staff for the first 3 months and then quarterly.
- ❖ SCI experts identified including physicians and nursing staff (Clinical care coordinators)
- ❖ Identified educational gaps for ED staff to include topics on Baclofen pump, Autonomic Dysreflexia, Osteoporosis, Issues related to insertion/change of foley catheter in ED and ordering of U/A and C&S with foley insertion) and Pressure Injury Prevention
- ❖ Utilization of Qgenda which is used to schedule residents and SCI physicians.
- ❖ Discuss bed flow with SCI Nursing leadership and include off shift resources to Qgenda. Provide list of unit population (i.e., SCI-B vent dependent unit).
- ❖ Provide information on admission of patients on Trilogy.
- ❖ All new SCI Fellows and any fee-based physician provided with SCI 101 power point presentations (a class that is provided to ALL new SCI staff) and reviewed at his/her leisure
- ❖ ED nursing staff (champions) attend SCI 101 Orientation
- ❖ Goal: The team will provide education to surrounding small facility Eds on how to provide care to our SCI population in the event of AD as well as address other topics of concerns re: our SCI population "Emergent care of the person with Chronic SCI" to include VA facility Eds in our area (Bay Pines, Orlando and Gainesville Vas).

### CONCLUSION

- ❖ Improvements made that allowed ED staff to provide improved care to the SCI patients admitted to the hospital via ED.
- ❖ Waffle mattress ordered and ED staff aware of benefits of use to decrease pressure injuries
- ❖ ED physicians and nursing staff educated on most current practice on how to treat Autonomic Dysreflexia. Poster on AD installed on wall in ED for resource to ED staff.
- ❖ Osteomyelitis and SCI Fracture Risk Tool provided to SCI-ED team members
- ❖ Qgenda ensures that coverage of SCI patients by nocturnists between the hours (1530-1545)
- ❖ A list of SCI nurse subject experts provided to ED for day/night shifts



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