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75% Rule Puts Serious Squeeze on IRF Admissions



WASHINGTON, DC (Rehab Wire) The 75 percent rule is already significantly limiting patients' access to inpatient rehab services, according to a study released Sept. 22 by the Federation of American Hospitals and the American Hospital Association.

The report, "New Estimates of the Impact of Enforcement of the '75 % Rule' on Inpatient Rehabilitation Services Volume," measures admissions under the Medicare rule which requires that 75 percent of patients receiving treatment at inpatient rehabilitation facilities have one of thirteen qualifying conditions.

The study reveals that the rule is having a far greater impact on admissions than originally predicted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The agency estimated that approximately 1,200 patients would be affected by the rule's implementation; however, this study finds the requirements are affecting approximately 40,000 patients.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, as well as other provider and patient groups, are rallying around legislation, the "Preserving Patient Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospitals Act," that would change percentage of patients who must meet the qualifying conditions from 75 to 50 percent.

Oct 6, 2005, 11:10



75 Percent Rule Diagnoses (CMS 13)

Spinal Cord Injury

- 1) Neurological Conditions
- 2) Polyarthritis/Rheumatoid Arthritis
- 3) Amputation
- 4) Stroke
- 5) Brain Injury
- 6) Fractured Hip
- 7) Multiple Trauma
- 8) Burns
- 9) Multiple Fractures
- 10) Congenital Deformities
- 11) Total Joint Replacement with at least one of 3 conditions:
 - Bilateral knee or bilateral hip joint replacement at the same time
 - Obese patients with a BMI of at least 50
 - Total joint replacement patients who are at least 85 years of age
- 13) Other diagnoses with one of the previous diagnoses as a co-morbidity that complicates the rehabilitation process substantially

Clinical Benefits of MedX Phototherapy for the 13 Diagnoses



Diagnoses	Pain Control	Bone & Tissue Healing	Inflammation	Swelling	Rehab Outcomes	Contracture Management
Spinal Cord Injury	X RSI, shoulder, hand conditions	X Initial injury, wounds	X Over-use injuries	X Affected limbs	X Decreased pain & swelling & increased tissue repair	X Related to injury
Neurological Conditions	X Decrease spasticity, pain conditions	X Wounds		X Affected limbs	X Decreased pain, swelling, spasticity & increased tissue repair	X Related to neurological condition
Polyarthritis RA	X Joint pain		X Joint inflammation & slower degeneration	X During to inflammatory process	X Decreased pain & swelling & increased tissue repair	
Amputation	X Post op pain, phantom pain	X Post op healing			X Decreased pain & swelling & increased tissue repair	
Stroke	X Decrease spasticity, pain conditions		X Over-use injuries	X Affected limbs	X Decreased pain, swelling & spasticity	X Related to neurological condition
Brain Injury	X Decrease spasticity, pain conditions			X Affected limbs	X Decreased pain, swelling, spasticity & increased tissue repair	X Related to neurological injury
Fracture Management	X Decrease pain	X Accelerate osteoblasts production, bone healing		X Tissue surrounding fractures	X Decreased pain & swelling	
Multiple Trauma	X Decrease spasticity, pain conditions			X Affected limbs	X Decreased pain, swelling, spasticity & increased tissue repair	X Related to neurological injury
Burns	X Decreased pain	X Wound healing, tensile strength, & scar formation	X Decrease inflammatory phase of healing	X Decrease initial swelling of burned tissue	X Decreased pain, swelling & accelerated tissue repair, tensile strength & quality of scar formation	X Quality of scar formation decreases contractures
Multiple Fractures	X Decrease pain	X Accelerate osteoblasts production, bone healing		X Tissue surrounding fractures	X Decreased pain & swelling	
Congenital Deformities	X Decrease spasticity, pain conditions			X Affected limbs	X Decreased pain, swelling & spasticity	X Related to neurological injury
Total Joint with 3 Conditions	X Decrease pain	X Accelerate osteoblasts production, bone healing		X Tissue surrounding fractures	X Decreased pain & swelling	
Other Diagnoses with One Previous Dx	X	X	X	X	X	X